

AIR FRANCE

2 Nights
in Euro Disney

4 nights
in Paris

For only 595 JD

Offer valid until end of May '93

For more details call 661014 or your travel agent



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily
published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردن تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الأردنية للأنباء

AIR FRANCE TAKES YOU TO NEW YORK
AT TWICE THE SPEED OF SOUND.

If your next destination is New York buy an Air France first class ticket and experience flying at twice the speed of sound.

For more information:
call 666055
or your travel agent.

AIR FRANCE

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Volume 17 Number 5272

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 1-2, 1993, SHAWAL 9-10, 1413

Israel keeps Palestinians under siege, but feels economic pinch

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israelis turned back Palestinians trying to cross to work in Israel Wednesday and prepared to step up operations to combat sowing Arab-Israeli violence.

Palestinians condemned the closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as collective punishment and said it would only strengthen those who opposed efforts to restart Middle East peace talks.

Long lines of cars and buses built up at checkpoints around Jerusalem but soldiers turned away vehicles with the blue number plates issued to Palestinians.

Many building sites in Israel were idle because Palestinians make up more than half of the 135,000-strong construction workforce. Farms, garages and small workshops were also badly affected.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered the nearly two million Palestinians of the occupied territories to be sealed off from the Jewish state this week amid public anger over an increase in attacks on Israelis.

He also relaxed army open-fire regulations and ordered more troops to be sent to the occupied



A Palestinian boy watches as an Israeli soldier fires rubber bullets at protesting Palestinians during a raid on the Shufat refugee camp in Jerusalem (AFP photo)

territories Tuesday after unknown assailants shot dead two policemen. Security sources said they expected an increase in army operations after the forces arrived.

The indefinite closure began Monday in Gaza and Wednesday in the West Bank. It does not affect Arab East Jerusalem. The closure means economic hardship for the occupied territories, particularly Gaza; because about 100,000 Palestinians work in Israel, usually as day labourers. It also effectively cuts the

(Continued on page 3)

EC restates commitment to peace process, but will stay clear of bilateral negotiations

Envoy urges Arabs, Israel not to lose 'the window of opportunity'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Community (EC) Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to playing a key role in the Middle East peace process, but gave a wide berth to the American-led negotiations by limiting community involvement to the multilateral phase.

A visiting EC delegation also voiced understanding of the economic problems faced by Jordan and reiterated the community's continued support for the Kingdom, particularly for its economic structural programme (See sidebar).

The delegation, headed by Danish Foreign Minister Neils Helveg Petersen, held talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Be Shaker and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber as well as a Palestinian team before heading for Damascus.

(Continued on page 5)

Europe understands Jordan's problems, will continue aid

THE EUROPEAN Community (EC) understands the economic problems faced by Jordan and will continue to extend assistance to the Kingdom, particularly its economic restructuring programme. EC Commissioner for External Relations Hans van den Broek said Wednesday.

"We are really showing an understanding of the tremendous economic difficulties that Jordan finds itself in these days... under different circumstances... the aftermath of the Gulf war, economic conditions, returns..." Mr. Van der Broek told a press conference.

"We pledge today that we are committed to continuing (European) Community support, for instance towards the structural adjustment programme the government is carrying out with great determination," he said.

The EC commissioner said the community's preoccupation with developments in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union would not dissuade it from fulfilling its commitment to the Middle East.

"... Our worries and concerns regarding the situations in the Balkans and the former Soviet Union, which has absorbed a lot of our time and energy, do not go at the expense of our continued involvement in the Middle East peace process," he said.

"I think that the EC is doing its best and utmost to reiterate its constant commitment, notably through the multilateral negotiations," said Mr. Van den Broek, former foreign minister of the Netherlands.

Somali factions draw up disarmament programme

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia's 15 warring factions have begun drawing up practical steps to disarm the population and re-integrate militia into society. The creation of a police force, judiciary and prison system are a priority.

The ceasefire and disarmament committee, in which all the factions are represented, held a second day of talks Wednesday to discuss disarmament and ceasefire violations.

U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi told reporters the committee had identified 55 "transition sites" across the Horn of Africa country, where militias could hand in their weapons.

"We are studying the feasibility of these sites... where militias will bring in light weapons and be taken care of by the humanitarian organisations," Mr. Mawlawi said.

The transition sites will also be used for the rehabilitation of militias, Mr. Mawlawi said.

The committee has set a 90-day deadline to disarm the Somali population.

The anarchic country was awash with guns before a 23-nation force arrived last December to restore order and stop the looting of food convoys.

The U.S.-led military says it has been fairly successful in confiscating heavy weapons used during the two-year war and these are being held in 12 cantonment areas. However, many light weapons are still in circulation.

The U.N. takes over control of

(Continued on page 5)

Balladur announces cuts in budget, German visit

PARIS (R) — Edouard Balladur, France's new conservative prime minister, moved boldly into the driving seat Wednesday, ordering government spending cuts and announcing he would go to Germany soon.

The moves reflected Mr. Balladur's desire to curb the growing budget deficit bequeathed by the outgoing Socialist government and underlined his commitment to the Franco-German partnership at the center of the European Community (EC).

The decisions were announced after the government's first meeting, billed as an informal get-together, since it was appointed by President Francois Mitterrand Tuesday.

The prime minister wished to impress on ministers the need to economise in these difficult times, government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy told reporters.

Mr. Mitterrand was not present at the meeting, suggesting Mr. Balladur intended to exercise a degree of independence in domestic and foreign policy. The first cabinet meeting chaired by Mr. Mitterrand is due Friday.

Mr. Sarkozy, who is also budget minister, said Mr. Balladur had asked him to prepare a revised budget bill quickly to reduce state spending by at least 20 billion francs (\$3.6 billion) in line with election pledges.

During the campaign leading up to last week's landslide victory at the polls, the centre-right said

(Continued on page 5)

House holds last session of its term; extraordinary session seen unlikely

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday held the last meeting in its fourth and closing ordinary session amidst strong indications that it will not reconvene for an extraordinary assembly.

Sixty-eight deputies attended the last meeting of the 80-member 11th parliament, which failed to secure the 41 votes necessary to constitutionally oblige the government to call an extraordinary meeting.

The 23-strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc was the only organised group in the House to request the convening of the extraordinary sessions but it did not succeed in mustering the support of enough parliamentarians for its quest.

Deputies opposed to the con-

venering of the session want to start preparing for their reelection campaigns before Parliament's term ends on Nov. 18 while the Brotherhood said it wanted to complete unfinished business that was on the agenda of the house.

Observers said that while the Brotherhood was almost assured of the support of its constituency, other deputies needed to work hard on their reelection bids.

Furthermore, it is said that the Brotherhood deputies could well be the parliamentary platform better than the others for electing purposes.

The Constitution stipulates that elections be held within four months before the end of Parliament's term. The mandate of the current House will be automatically extended if elections are not held before then.

Parliament can still require an

extraordinary session if 41 deputies make the request at any time (unless Parliament is dissolved by the King), but observers say this is an unlikely possibility.

The decision of the House not to ask for the extraordinary session left the say on the matter in the hands of the government, which observers said has little incentives to call deputies back.

Jordanian dailies Tuesday and Wednesday published accounts of the secret session based on sources which were not identified.

Some deputies challenged the credibility of information that Al-Dustour and Sawt Al-Sha'ab Arabic dailies published about the secret session, contending their reports were aimed at solving discord

Continued on page 5

Questions remain and prospects unclear

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

DEPUTIES in Jordan's 11th Parliament held their last scheduled session yesterday, uncertain whether they will meet again before their four-year term ends in November, or that changed circumstances will dictate new elections and new chances in playing the unique-in-the-region democratic experiment.

Being probably the only freely elected people's representatives in Jordan's modern history, the deputies themselves represented change in the political life of this country and that alone calls for a period of assessment for the whole experiment.

The time needed for a democratic country to decide whether a new parliament would be a good thing might be just a pause, but in a small

albeit crucial Arab state living in the volatile Middle East the choices are never easy and they certainly are not all made at home.

Jordanians generally feel that it has been possible and workable for successive governments since 1989 to coexist with a sometimes rowdy and troublesome parliament. This is one basic tenet of democracy. But whether a new Lower House can have more opponents than already exists to Jordan's fundamental goals and policies is the question that has to be answered.

Nobody knows for sure what His Majesty King Hussein will eventually decide to do to ensure that, in a totally democratic framework, the majority of deputies in a new house will not oppose the Kingdom's twin basic policies of peace and security. He will perhaps have only a small problem if he uses his constitutional powers to ex-

tend this Parliament's term by another two years. On the other hand, he can call elections for either the summer or fall, depending on the results of studies being made on the Elections Law, which has a determining effect on the outcome of any new elections.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jordan, namely the regime, is finally winning credit in the West for its ability to contain the Islamists (Jordan does not call them Muslim fundamentalists) by its "policy of inclusion;" there are about 30 Islamists in the 80-member House of Deputies. But the "policy of inclusion" has also been controversial, both at home and in the region. While people here have called it names ranging from "appeasement" to "sellout" to the Islamist and the ultra-

conservatives' agenda, other countries in the region have branded democracy here as a temporary game played by the King for his own reasons and even a threat to their own security.

The King thus finds himself again having to play a balancing act. Right now, he has the peace process to keep alive and Jordan has to stay in it; the economy has to stick by the IMF-World Bank programme; the security of the country cannot be compromised by links with Iran or Hezbollah or any other state; and, needless to say, democratisation has to continue and hopefully even become a model for the region.

It will be difficult for the King to attain these objectives if the Islamists say, or a coalition of the forces that oppose the peace process (the Islamists, the ultra-nationalists and

Continued on page 5)

Yeltsin to challenge congress moves

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin will challenge several decisions by hardline lawmakers in the constitutional court, but is leaning against holding a rival referendum, his chief of staff said Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin has already asked the court to overturn controversial voting procedures for an April 25 referendum that was approved Monday by the Congress of People's Deputies, Sergei Filatov told reporters.

The announcement follows two days of scrambling by Mr. Yeltsin's supporters to work out a political strategy after narrowly surviving attempts in congress to force him from office.

"We announce this clearly, who is out with us is against us," Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa said in a parliamentary address published in newspapers.

Tensions were running high a day after an explosion at one of Cairo's world famous pyramids and a Muslim militant warning to foreign tourists and businessmen to get out of Egypt fast.

Tuesday's explosion inside a electrical short circuit, officials said.

In Upper Egypt, police arrested two militant suspects in bomb attacks, shot and wounded a suspect who tried to escape arrest, and seized more explosives, security sources said.

In his parliamentary speech, Mr. Musa told the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's oldest fundamentalist group, and other Islamic societies they should come off the fence and take a stand on militant violence.

"All these groups are requested to define their positions categorically... do they support violence or oppose it? The situation does not tolerate half-solutions," he said.

But the Muslim Brotherhood said its position was clearly defined.

"The ministry needs not to make warnings... we do not accept or support violence, and at the same time, we do not accept the violence carried out by the government," Mamoun Hudaiti, the Brotherhood's spokesman, said.

Police in the last month have launched a series of raids on militants fighting to overthrow the government, killing 29. At least 116 people have been killed.

Testifying in the U.S. Senate, he heaped pressure on Libya for its refusal to hand over for trial two officials accused of carrying out the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died.

Mr. Christopher's stern words, included strong attacks on Iraq and Iran, were meant to send a clear signal that the Clinton administration was not weakening on terrorism, Western and Arab diplomats in Cairo said.

But any serious U.S. move to persuade the Security Council to impose an oil embargo would

end Mr. Yeltsin's powers. His foes fell 72 votes short of the 689 needed to remove him from office in a vote Sunday.

Bitter attacks on Mr. Yeltsin have become a habit with the 1,033-member congress, dominated by former Communist Party officials, factory directors and state farm chiefs elected before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Many of them oppose Mr. Yeltsin's free-market reforms and Western-oriented foreign policy.

Mr. Yeltsin proposed the referendum to resolve the power struggle. Congress approved it, but added the loaded question on whether Russians support his painful economic reforms begun 15 months ago. Many Russians support Mr. Yeltsin personally, but are angry about their declining living standards.

Voters will also be asked if they want early elections for president and parliament and if they have confidence in Yeltsin.

They also advised Mr. Yeltsin against holding a competing referendum and warned that discontent was growing in the military.

Mr. Yeltsin held a strategy session Tuesday with about 100 legislative allies who urged him to ask the constitutional court to strike down the question about his economic policies.

"The president was elected by a simple majority of those who cast ballots... I hope the constitutional court will help solve this problem."

Mr. Yeltsin told Congress Tuesday that Iran was an "international outlaw." He said: "Iran one of the principal sources of support for terrorist groups around the world."

Mr. Christopher told Congress Tuesday that Iran was an "international outlaw." He said: "Iran one of the principal sources of support for terrorist groups around the world."

Mr. Christopher indirectly criticised France, Germany and other U.S. allies he said had supported World Bank loans to Tehran.

The Islamic Republic News Agency quoted (IRNA) Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the allegations were "unfounded, worthless and an indication of confusion in Washington foreign policy."

to New York next week to put Libya's case against more sanctions.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that U.S. allegations of terrorism against Tehran were unfounded.

Tehran radio, meanwhile, said Iran would not knuckle under to American pressure to change its policies.

Mr. Christopher told Congress Tuesday that Iran was an "international outlaw." He said: "Iran one of the principal sources of support for terrorist groups around the world."

Mr. Christopher indirectly criticised France, Germany and other U.S. allies he said had supported World Bank loans to Tehran.

The Islamic Republic News Agency quoted (IRNA) Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the allegations were "unfounded, worthless and an indication of confusion in

Cyprus talks at U.N. set for May 24

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash will begin a new round of talks at the United Nations on May 24 on reuniting their divided island. The United Nations said Tuesday.

The date was agreed at a joint meeting by the two leaders with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. They followed separate meetings between them and the U.N. chief.

"The joint negotiations will be preceded by a preparatory process in which the representatives of the secretary-general will meet in Nicosia with the leaders of the two communities," a U.N. statement said.

It said Mr. Clerides, who heads the Greek Cypriot community, and Mr. Denktash had "expressed their willingness to resume the joint negotiations Monday, May 24, 1993, at United Nations headquarters using the set of ideas for the purpose of reaching freely a mutually acceptable overall framework agreement."

The set of ideas, and an accompanying map, were presented by Dr. Ghali last summer to Mr. Denktash and Mr. Clerides' predecessor as president, George Vassiliou, as a basis for the establishment of a bi-communal, bilingual federation.

Cyprus has been virtually partitioned since Turkish troops occupied the northern part of the island in 1974 following a brief coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The Turkish Cypriots proclaimed their own state in 1983 with Mr. Denktash as president but it is recognised only by Ankara.

During the last round of negotiations, spread over several months last year and ending last November, Mr. Denktash raised objections to key parts of the set of ideas and the map.

Mr. Clerides also expressed some reservations, but for different reasons, during a political campaign earlier this year which resulted in his election last month as president.

The U.N. announcement said the purpose of the preparatory work in Nicosia would be "to clarify the specific concerns of the two leaders relating to the draft overall framework agreement contained in the set of ideas and to address those concerns with a view to facilitating progress at the resumed joint negotiations in New York."

"They will also discuss the implementation of confidence-building measures with a view to



Glafcos Clerides

creating a new climate of confidence which will contribute to the success of the negotiating process."

Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash, both London-trained barristers, have known each other for decades and were diplomatic sparring partners on the Cyprus issue more than 20 years ago.

The U.N. statement said Dr. Ghali welcomed the declared intention of the two leaders to meet privately from time to time and to hold meetings with the head of the political parties from both sides, in parallel with the negotiations.

"He believes that such encounters can help overcome long-standing mutual distrust and can contribute to the success of both the preparatory process and the joint negotiations," the statement added.

In addition to confirming the May 24 date, Mr. Clerides told reporters the secretary-general would appoint Gustave Feissel, a senior official at U.N. headquarters involved in the Cyprus question, as his assistant special representative in Nicosia.

Mr. Ghali would also appoint "an important personality" to become his special representative on the island — a post recently vacated by Argentine diplomat Oscar Camilión, who has returned to Buenos Aires to become defence minister.

Mr. Denktash confirmed he was to be Mr. Clerides' dinner guest Tuesday night and said he hoped this represented "a change of heart for the good, because if we cannot talk how can we establish a partnership?"

He said that since the time of Spyros Kyprianou, who was president during the late 1970s and early 1980s, "talking to us ... was anathema for the Greek Cypriot leaders."

Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash are also due to attend a working lunch with Dr. Ghali Wednesday.

Kuwaiti reporter held for hitting MP

KUWAIT (R) — A journalist allegedly beat up a member of parliament in the National Assembly Tuesday in an incident unprecedented in Kuwait's 30-year parliamentary tradition.

Assembly Speaker and opposition veteran Ahmad Al Saadoun said the incident had a political dimension that involved "enemies of democracy" and was not purely a personal quarrel.

Security guards acting on Mr. Saadoun's orders arrested Al Rai Al Am newspaper reporter Hamed Boyabes after he knocked parliamentarian Mufarej Nahar Al Mutairi to the floor of the chamber and repeatedly struck him.

Parliamentarians described the assault as unprecedented both because of the level of violence used and because it was between an MP and a journalist.

They said altercations in the past were between MPs only and rarely went beyond the level of shouting.

They said the two men had quarreled over an article by Mr. Boyabes on March 10 that was highly critical of Mr. Mutairi. Mr. Boyabes took what some political observers saw as the provocative step of including a reference in his article to Mr. Mutairi's wife.

"One of the (people) who claim to belong to the Kuwaiti press assaulted one of our honourable brothers Mufarej Nahar Al Mutairi, assault whose marks are still present on his body," Mr. Saadoun told the assembly.

"I ordered the head of the guards to arrest Hamed Boyabes and to handcuff him and send him to the attorney general."

Mr. Saadoun suggested the incident was one of a series of attempts "to drag the assembly into specific issues."

"These individuals are but masks and we have to know who is behind them," he said.

The opposition-dominated assembly has revived a lively parliamentary tradition unmatched anywhere else in the Gulf since it began sitting again in October after a two-year break.

The 60-seat assembly has begun investigating all government actions including legislation issued by decree since it was dissolved by the government in 1986.

Among the most sensitive probes are inquiries into suspected misuse of public funds including mismanagement of the emir's overseas investment empire and government handling of the crisis with Iraq that preceded Iraq's August 1990 invasion.



ISRAELI RAID: A Palestinian woman passes by refugee camp in Jerusalem. At least 20 Palestinians were arrested (AFP photo)

Exports of cellular networks to Middle East cause concern

By Charles Hughes

ANOTHER ROW appears to be brewing over exports to the Middle East, only this time the problem is "cellular" mobile radio systems. Although such systems may be the cause of some embarrassment to members of the British royal family, they are hardly lethal weapons. Most of the Gulf states already operate such networks and they have been a valuable source of export revenue for the West. Nevertheless, the latest systems have rung alarm bells in Western intelligence communities.

It is surprising it has taken them so long to wake up to the problem since it all started in the early 1980s. Until recently most European countries had incompatible cellular networks and visitors to another country could not make or receive calls unless they fitted a new mobile set. Then in 1983 the European Council for Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT), which extends beyond the European Community, resolved to define a cellular system, known as "GSM," to "cover" the whole of Europe. They decided to adopt a "digital" system for purely technical reasons but one of the incidental advantages was that, unlike the current "analogue" systems, it was comparatively easy to encrypt the signals. Apart from protecting the privacy

of the conversations, it would help to prevent unauthorised users impersonating the "call sign" of a legitimate subscriber and so making calls that would be charged to the unsuspecting victim.

The use of an encrypted system appears to be in accordance with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects privacy of communications but allows for the legal interception by a proper authority in the interest of national security or crime prevention. Since the operating organisation would always have the "keys" to the encrypted communications, authorised interception would be possible with the proper safeguards. The problem arises when the system is exported elsewhere, particularly the Arab world. If the U.S. and the Israelis wish to intercept the communications, they face a major problem.

It is surprising it has taken them so long to wake up to the problem since it all started in the early 1980s. Until recently most European countries had incompatible cellular networks and visitors to another country could not make or receive calls unless they fitted a new mobile set. Then in 1983 the European Council for Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT), which extends beyond the European Community, resolved to define a cellular system, known as "GSM," to "cover" the whole of Europe. They decided to adopt a "digital" system for purely technical reasons but one of the incidental advantages was that, unlike the current "analogue" systems, it was comparatively easy to encrypt the signals. Apart from protecting the privacy

of the conversations, it would help to prevent unauthorised users impersonating the "call sign" of a legitimate subscriber and so making calls that would be charged to the unsuspecting victim.

The use of an encrypted system appears to be in accordance with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects privacy of communications but allows for the legal interception by a proper authority in the interest of national security or crime prevention. Since the operating organisation would always have the "keys" to the encrypted communications, authorised interception would be possible with the proper safeguards. The problem arises when the system is exported elsewhere, particularly the Arab world. If the U.S. and the Israelis wish to intercept the communications, they face a major problem.

It is surprising it has taken them so long to wake up to the problem since it all started in the early 1980s. Until recently most European countries had incompatible cellular networks and visitors to another country could not make or receive calls unless they fitted a new mobile set. Then in 1983 the European Council for Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT), which extends beyond the European Community, resolved to define a cellular system, known as "GSM," to "cover" the whole of Europe. They decided to adopt a "digital" system for purely technical reasons but one of the incidental advantages was that, unlike the current "analogue" systems, it was comparatively easy to encrypt the signals. Apart from protecting the privacy

of the conversations, it would help to prevent unauthorised users impersonating the "call sign" of a legitimate subscriber and so making calls that would be charged to the unsuspecting victim.

The use of an encrypted system appears to be in accordance with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects privacy of communications but allows for the legal interception by a proper authority in the interest of national security or crime prevention. Since the operating organisation would always have the "keys" to the encrypted communications, authorised interception would be possible with the proper safeguards. The problem arises when the system is exported elsewhere, particularly the Arab world. If the U.S. and the Israelis wish to intercept the communications, they face a major problem.

It is surprising it has taken them so long to wake up to the problem since it all started in the early 1980s. Until recently most European countries had incompatible cellular networks and visitors to another country could not make or receive calls unless they fitted a new mobile set. Then in 1983 the European Council for Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT), which extends beyond the European Community, resolved to define a cellular system, known as "GSM," to "cover" the whole of Europe. They decided to adopt a "digital" system for purely technical reasons but one of the incidental advantages was that, unlike the current "analogue" systems, it was comparatively easy to encrypt the signals. Apart from protecting the privacy

of the conversations, it would help to prevent unauthorised users impersonating the "call sign" of a legitimate subscriber and so making calls that would be charged to the unsuspecting victim.

The use of an encrypted system appears to be in accordance with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects privacy of communications but allows for the legal interception by a proper authority in the interest of national security or crime prevention. Since the operating organisation would always have the "keys" to the encrypted communications, authorised interception would be possible with the proper safeguards. The problem arises when the system is exported elsewhere, particularly the Arab world. If the U.S. and the Israelis wish to intercept the communications, they face a major problem.

It is surprising it has taken them so long to wake up to the problem since it all started in the early 1980s. Until recently most European countries had incompatible cellular networks and visitors to another country could not make or receive calls unless they fitted a new mobile set. Then in 1983 the European Council for Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT), which extends beyond the European Community, resolved to define a cellular system, known as "GSM," to "cover" the whole of Europe. They decided to adopt a "digital" system for purely technical reasons but one of the incidental advantages was that, unlike the current "analogue" systems, it was comparatively easy to encrypt the signals. Apart from protecting the privacy

of the conversations, it would help to prevent unauthorised users impersonating the "call sign" of a legitimate subscriber and so making calls that would be charged to the unsuspecting victim.

The use of an encrypted system appears to be in accordance with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects privacy of communications but allows for the legal interception by a proper authority in the interest of national security or crime prevention. Since the operating organisation would always have the "keys" to the encrypted communications, authorised interception would be possible with the proper safeguards. The problem arises when the system is exported elsewhere, particularly the Arab world. If the U.S. and the Israelis wish to intercept the communications, they face a major problem.

It is surprising it has taken them so long to wake up to the problem since it all started in the early 1980s. Until recently most European countries had incompatible cellular networks and visitors to another country could not make or receive calls unless they fitted a new mobile set. Then in 1983 the European Council for Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT), which extends beyond the European Community, resolved to define a cellular system, known as "GSM," to "cover" the whole of Europe. They decided to adopt a "digital" system for purely technical reasons but one of the incidental advantages was that, unlike the current "analogue" systems, it was comparatively easy to encrypt the signals. Apart from protecting the privacy

of the conversations, it would help to prevent unauthorised users impersonating the "call sign" of a legitimate subscriber and so making calls that would be charged to the unsuspecting victim.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran needs years of submarine training

ABU DHABI (AP) — It will take at least three years of training before Iran can run successful missions with submarines it is acquiring from Russia, a British officer said Wednesday. Iran is the only country in the Gulf to have acquired submarines, a development that has alarmed its neighbours as well as Western countries who view Tehran with suspicion. "It takes a long time to build expertise to become a submariner," Captain Martin MacPherson told reporters aboard HMS Triumph, currently on a port call to Abu Dhabi. "You need about three years of training to carry out a mission with success, but to wage a long-term submarine war you need at least 15 years," Capt. MacPherson said. The Triumph, the first British nuclear submarine to enter the Gulf, docked at Abu Dhabi Monday. Capt. MacPherson is representing flag officer of submarines in the royal navy.

11 Kurds die in clash during ceasefire

ANKARA (R) — Turkish troops killed in Kurdish rebels in two incidents in southeastern Turkey, the highest death toll since Kurdish guerrillas declared a 26-day ceasefire, officials said Wednesday. They said troops killed the guerrillas of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in gunbattles Tuesday in Mardin and Tunceli provinces. There were no reports of casualties among the troops. A ceasefire declared unilaterally by PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan on March 17 has led to a marked decrease in clashes in the southeast where the PKK has waged an independence war since 1987. But Turkish troops are keeping up operations against the rebels in the mountains, security sources say.

Turkey to ban private radio broadcasting

İSTANBUL (R) — Turkey has ordered 500 private radio stations to cease broadcasting. Turkish private broadcasters said Wednesday. The directors of the Association of Turkish Broadcasters told reporters the ban would go into effect within 24 hours. The Directorate of Wireless Communications, part of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Tuesday ordered the governors of Turkey's 76 provinces to close down the radio stations. It said the stations were illegal and operating without licenses, and ordered provincial authorities to confiscate all radio equipment and transmitters if they did not cease broadcasting. A government promise last year to liberalise the airwaves, monopolised by Turkey's state radio and television, prompted 500 radio stations, many based in Istanbul, to begin broadcasting. Several of the stations beam programmes from European cities by satellite and retransmit in Turkey.

U.S. protests Malta's release of hijacker

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously Tuesday to condemn Malta's release from prison of a Palestinian convicted in the 1985 hijacking of an Egyptian airliner in which 60 people died, including an American woman. House members called the release last month of Mohammad Ali Rezak an outrage, a mistake and a lapse in international efforts to combat terrorism. The House approved by a 421-0 vote a resolution calling for a review of U.S. relations with Malta and urging all governments to help bring Rezak to the United States or another country to face additional hijacking and murder charges. A warrant for his arrest had been issued by a federal court in Washington.

Egyptian woman freed from Canadian detention

MONTREAL (AP) — An Egyptian woman ordered deported and held last week despite her fear of religious persecution has been released from detention. Karima Boutros and her two oldest children, Jihan, 21, and Sherrif, 22, were detained immediately after their refugee hearing last Friday, when an arbitrator decided they did not have a refugee claim. The three were freed after a friend posted bond. Ms. Boutros' three younger children, aged 7, 11 and 13 were left at home alone Friday after she was detained. Jihan Boutros said the family tried to arrange for a friend to look after the children but were not allowed to make phone calls in detention. A family acquaintance found the three boys at home Friday. Karima Boutros said she must stay in Canada because returning to Egypt would mean imprisonment or death. She converted her children to Coptic Christianity after separating from her Muslim husband about six years ago.

French poll results good news for Iran — paper

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper hailed on Wednesday the victory of the centre-right in French elections as "good news," for Tehran. The English-language Tehran Times, reputed to be close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said ties with Paris seem to improve when the right are in power in France. "It would seem that Tehran-Paris ties improve perceptibly whenever the faction to which (Gaulist leader Jacques) Chirac belongs comes into power in France," said the editorial which was carried by the Iranian news agency IRNA. It said the outgoing Socialist government was "too much under the influence of the expatriate Iranians opposing the Islamic Republic government." But centre-right Union for France (UPF) alliance routed the ruling Socialists in Sunday's elections, giving them 484 of the National Assembly's 577 seats.

Tremor rocks northwest Iran

NICOSIA (R) — An earthquake measuring five degrees on the open-ended Richter scale rocked northwestern Iran Wednesday, the second in the area in as many weeks. The Iranian news agency IRNA said the quake was "relatively strong" and jolted the cities of Khoy, Salmas and Qareh Ziaeddin in the province of West Azarbaijan, 650 kilometres north west of Tehran. The agency did not say if there was any material damage or casualties. Three earthquakes jolted southern and northeastern Iran on Tuesday but no casualties were reported, IRNA said earlier.

Khamenei pardons 1,682 prisoners

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pardoned and commuted the sentences of 1,682 prisoners to mark the Islamic Republic Day on April 1. The Iranian news agency IRNA said the amnesty was granted on the advice of the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

Questions raised about Iran's role in inspiring New York bombers

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Did Iran play an indirect role in the World Trade Centre bombing?

Although the actual bombing appears to be the work of amateurs, some experts see Iran's radical anti-Western regime as the source of inspiration for the group which concocted the bomb that killed six people, wounded more than 1,000 and caused \$1 billion in damages on Feb. 26.

Vincent Cannistraro, former chief of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) counterterrorism operations, told the Associated Press that the Iranians were financing Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a fundamentalist Egyptian cleric who was spiritual guru for at least some of those charged in the bombing.

Some experts note the methodology of the attack is consistent with attacks by Iranian-backed groups in the Middle East — especially the use of a van or truck to deliver the explosive.

Others suggest the Iranian influence is more one of igniting the passion of the attackers rather than the bombs themselves.

"They do it by inspiration knowing full well where that would lead," said Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Council at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia.

Richard Clutterbuck, a retired British major general and lecturer at Essex University, said such groups often have no formal structure.

"Sheikh Omar has become a symbol of that change," said Dr. Abu Khalil, a Lebanon scholar at the Middle East Institute here, says the Egyptian cleric in his underground cassettes has stressed the need for cooperation between Sunnis and Shiites. He also has spoken in support of Iran's revolution.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Bouquets and brickbats

THUS ENDS the fourth and last ordinary session of Jordan's 11th Parliament.

Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat says deputies' achievements in four years of work were "unprecedented." Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker says cooperation between the two branches provided the opportunity for building a pluralistic Jordan and the state of law. Critics point to many blunders and disappointments and unfinished business.

We acknowledge the achievements and recognise the mistakes. But what we emphasise most is that both the shortcomings and the successes of the last four years of parliamentary life in Jordan were equally essential for consolidating the democratic tradition that the country is slowly but steadily building.

The 11th Parliament was elected in the shadow of popular discontent over economic hardships, political frustration and social unease. It accordingly shaped the early days of the House, placing emphasis on sometimes emotional rhetoric to please ears yearning for criticism and on others directing efforts towards securing political freedoms and individual rights.

Four years later, things have changed substantially.

The House deserves credit for legislation that broadened — yet not fully ensured — political freedoms: Lifting the Martial Law, endorsing the Political Parties Law and the Press and Publications Law, which despite its all shortcomings, are all improvements upon their predecessors.

But deputies also deserve criticism for an unsatisfactory performance on issues related to the economy: Poverty, inflation and unemployment, showering these pressing concerns with emotional speeches but providing little real solutions to redress them.

Deputies' greatest failure was their inability to free themselves from their perception of their role as opposition figures who can please themselves and their constituencies by merely rejecting the status quo, without offering much to redress the problems.

Despite all that, however, the 11th Parliament served to strengthen the young roots of democracy in the country. That on its own is an achievement.

But the task of saving and building on it is the duty of the next Parliament and the duty of the people who will elect it.

When Jordanians go to the polls later this year, they have to carefully assess the performance of their representatives and clearly identify the goals that they want their deputies to attain.

What Jordan needs most in the coming stage is people who understand its problems and have the qualifications to solve them. They don't need representatives skilled at choosing words and playing emotional tunes. They need economists, technocrats and politicians who are willing to respect the opposing point of view and respect the most important pillar of democracy: Pluralism.

The records of the outgoing House provide all with insight into how each of the 80 deputies performed and how each political trend sees the future of Jordan.

The future that we look for is one of tolerance, pluralism and progress based on the respect of the individual and the best utilisation of resources.

The outgoing House took the first steps in that long journey. The regime, headed by His Majesty King Hussein, has given all indications that democracy is the choice of the future and the journey will continue uninterrupted. Jordanians will decide on how far it will reach and whether the next Parliament will be able to shoulder the responsibility.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTRIES

EVERY PALESTINIAN martyr that fell or will fall opens the door of paradise before the Palestinian people and paves the way for the Arab people's return to their homeland, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Every Israeli that is being killed or will be killed opens the door for the rest of his people to go to hell because these people have been the ones to kill Palestinian and Arab children and causing untold suffering for Palestinian families, the paper added. Because of Israel's atrocities we are overjoyed over the killing of the Israeli troops and happy to see the Palestinian martyrs rising to heaven, said the paper. Although more Palestinians are killed than the Israelis, this is a temporary situation because sooner or later more Israelis will be killed as the holy warriors continue the struggle and continue to fight the aggressors to put an end to the occupation, the paper said. What has been happening recently added the daily is a rebellion and a popular uprising on the part of the Palestinians who will not be deterred in their just endeavour by the Israeli enemy, the United States or the Western allies, the paper said. It said that no one can stop the Palestinian people from pursuing the struggle and no one can prevent the ignominious defeat of the enemies of the Arab people and the Muslims. The Palestinians are not discouraged by the fall of the martyrs, but the Israeli hearts are full of horror and fear of their fate, added the paper. It said that nothing can stop the Palestinian people's intifada and no one can prevent the liberation of the Palestinian homeland.

IT SEEMS that Israel has no other tool to confront the Palestinian intifada except through escalating terrorism against the Palestinian people, said Al Dustour daily Wednesday. Resorting to what it calls security measures, Israel is embarking on repressive actions that proved their futility over the long years of occupation, said the daily. The Land Day anniversary marked a real transformation in the means adopted by the Palestinians to fight the aggressors and showed that the intifada, is growing and intensifying in all forms and ways, said the daily. It said the Israeli siege clamped on the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank can by no means stifle the spirit of resistance nor can it subdue the rebellion and discourage the daring youths who are spearheading the struggle against occupation. Although Israeli leaders realise the futility of the repressive measures and the siege imposed on the Arabs, they are intent on pursuing the same old measures, hoping to subdue the Arab population, said the daily. But, it said, the Palestinians are defying the siege and they are determined more than any time in the past to wrest their rights by all means.

Reflections

The case for growth-oriented tax incentives

MANUFACTURING IN Jordan enjoys two types of incentives: a high tariff protection from imports and income tax exemptions under the Encouragement of Investment Law. While the deleterious effects of tariff protection on exports and growth have been fully recognised, the subtle yet far more damaging influence of the Encouragement of Investment Law has largely escaped notice.

Tariff protection creates a bias against both exports and investment because producers could cater to a protected and captive local market at high near monopolistic prices which, in turn, negate any incentive to invest in productivity and cost efficiency. Furthermore, the small size of the local market means that producers can reach production targets with a minimal investment in capacity and have little use for investing in growth.

The Encouragement of Investment Law, first introduced in 1972, offers manufacturers a tax holiday for several years for merely setting up shop. As such, the law tends to reinforce the bias inherent in the tariff protection as producers seek to maximise early profits in order to capture the tax benefits by minimising investment and production capacity and targeting their shoddy and costly products to the high-margin domestic market.

Worst of all, these tax holidays constitute a terrible waste of public revenue since the tariff protection alone provides sufficient incentive for import substitution manufacturing.

No wonder then that the manufacturing base (excluding mining) has remained below 13 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) since 1977, the first year for which such statistics are available, or that manufacturing exports in dollar terms registered minimal growth between 1988 and 1992 and grew by only 20 per cent since 1984. When measured in German marks, these same exports were 30 per cent lower in 1991 than in 1984.

The World Bank (WB) report on manufacturing industries in Jordan (1988) draws a bleak picture about an inefficient and uncompetitive manufacturing sector dominated by small and weak firms with little growth potential. This lack of export capability led to disinvestment and shrinkage during periods of falling domestic demand. Between 1984 and 1990, the book value of fixed assets in the whole industrial sector dropped in every year even though replacement prices rose sharply in JD terms after 1988.

The table below provides additional proof of the absence of growth-oriented incentives in the economy. The table compares a group comprising the fastest growing public shareholding companies in Jordan with all other shareholding companies in the same sector. This group was defined as to include every non-government, non-financial public shareholding company which managed to increase sales by 150 per cent or more between 1986 and 1990 in a consistent and uniform manner while maintaining profitability.

The dean's list includes only six manufacturers in pharmaceuticals, textiles, plastics, and packaging materials. Three other companies were excluded because of a non-uniform sales growth pattern, indicating a temporary window of opportunity. One was excluded because of clear monopoly advantage. A fifth company was disqualified because of well-publicised management problems. (See table)

When comparison is made between this group of six and all other manufacturing shareholding companies, two distinct profiles emerge from under the debris of numbers. One of a hard working and ambitious organisation, set on expansion through investment and exports (69 per cent of sales). The other of a slothful hit and run operator who, having chosen the comforts of the protected home market, was hit hardest by falling demand during the recession.

The second profile depicts the typical Jordanian company: a feeble corporate character which acquired a lot of nasty habits over two decades of state patronage, high tariffs; low competition, and inward looking investment and trade policies. Poor sales growth, low export to sales ratio (13 per cent), disinvestment, and a predilection to short-termism are just a few of its vices.

The combined sales of all 28 public shareholding manufacturing companies (excluding mining firms) of the second group increased by a paltry 46 per cent between 1986 and 1990. Taking into account the decline in the value of the Jordanian dinar, sales would show a drop of 23 per cent during the same period. As for investment, only three companies have managed to avoid running down their stock of capital. In the service sector, the picture gets much worse. Not a single company listed on the stock exchange has managed to increase sales in constant 1986 dinars while maintaining profitability.

The comparison shows clearly the need to modify the tax

	Fastest growing companies	All other listed manufacturers
Sales Growth 1986-1990	250%	46%
Export ratio	69%	13%
Dividends payout ratio ..	33%	71%
Growth of fixed assets 1986-1990	48%	(22%)
Effective tax rate 1986-1990	28%	12%

incentives available to manufacturers (as the sector with the greatest growth potential). None of the companies in the group of six enjoyed a tax holiday during the period under study and the group paid a 28 per cent effective tax rate over the five years. On the other hand, 10 firms in the second group received tax exemptions under the Encouragement of Investment Law even though nine of those 10 companies were guilty of disinvestment. The overall effective tax rate for the profitable companies in the second group (excluding the refinery and the cement co.) was only 12 per cent. The current system of incentives in Jordan seems to reward inefficiency and disinvestment and penalise investment, growth and exports.

Rehabilitation goes beyond the simple task of modifying the incentives. Bringing down tariff rates any further may cause withdrawal shocks that can kill the patient. Such a treatment will also jeopardise the objective of balancing the budget and whittle away precious foreign reserves. Moreover, it will do nothing to reform companies in services and other sectors.

A better approach is group therapy. Expert counselling, large doses of competition, and vigorous daily exercises in the open air are far more effective means of nursing the patient into physical fitness and sharpening his corporate wits. If administered properly, therapy should cure him from craving after the quick fixes of cheap and easy profits and raise his sight upward and towards the vast horizons of foreign markets.

Only by trusting the private sector to respond to market signals and follow up on commercial opportunities can the overseers of the economy begin to understand the difference between market failure or policy failure or appreciate the distinction between intervention and substitution

But first, the therapists and their methods must be selected carefully. It would be the height of insincerity and bad taste if those same patronising orderlies who first pushed our companies into the dark cellar of underachievement should be the ones assigned to goad them out again into the fields of contest. Sneers and bitter-laughter would be the only response emanating from below.

Rehabilitation is to be conducted by specialists who have a clear understanding of the problem and the purpose of their mission. Above all, they must have an unwavering faith in private endeavour and a healthy respect for the powers of greed (or the pursuit of self-interest, if you like) to create value when channelled properly.

Only by trusting the private sector to respond to market signals and follow up on commercial opportunities can the overseers of the economy begin to understand the difference between market failure and policy failure or appreciate the distinction between intervention and substitution. Only then will stop blaming the private sector for all economic shortcomings and start placing the blame where it has always belonged: on faulty signals and short-sighted policies.

The next battlefield is clear. The congress approved Mr. Yeltsin's plan for a nationwide referendum on April 25 but sought to stack the ballot question against him.

Mr. Yeltsin had proposed to resolve the power struggle by asking whether voters trust him or the congress.

The next battlefield is clear. The congress approved Mr. Yeltsin's plan for a nationwide referendum on April 25 but sought to stack the ballot question against him.

Mr. Yeltsin had proposed to resolve the power struggle by asking whether voters trust him or the congress.

Deputies also added the question, "do you approve of the socio-economic policies of the president?" That was a smart move by Mr. Yeltsin's opponents, who realise that although he is popular, his painful free-market reforms are not.

Mr. Khasbulatov, matching Kostikov's rhetoric, concluded the congress by claiming it had stopped a "coup d'état" by Mr. Yeltsin. But the truth was that Yeltsin backed away from his March 20 announcement of "special rule" even before the congress convened.

A lesson in economic history has been learned recently when the fallacy of the Socialist system was so thoroughly exposed. An economy that is built on things other than the profit motive is bound to collapse eventually like a house of cards. The profit motive is the engine of lasting economic prosperity; the policy maker is the driver. This symbiotic relationship which exists in all successful economies has yet to be fully appreciated here in Jordan.

Instead, the private sector has been denounced and vilified by frustrated officials for essentially pursuing the short-term gains and opportunities made available to it by government policies or the lack of them. In frustration, government has chosen in the not too distant past to sidestep and substitute the private sector, thus marginalising it even further and driving away investments.

More recently, officials have opted for platitudes about encouraging the private sector. Such talk, while signalling a shift away from the policies of substitution, still smacks of patronising Big Brother attitude. The private sector is not some lazy bum waiting for encouragement or more handouts. It is an engine going around in circles, waiting to be steered dexterously by a clear-eyed driver.

The central task for a policymaker is to foster a long-term perspective regarding profits. If successful, profit maximisation will then become an exercise about maximising the present value of a stream of earnings extending 20 or 30 years into the future. This will require producers to aim for maximising market share through exports and generous investment in technology, labour and capital. When that is achieved, policymakers can proudly claim to have banished the profit motive in the service of national goals and both the public and private sectors will coexist happily ever after.

As for the immediate problem at hand, the tax incentives available to manufacturers must be modified to steer behaviour in the right direction. Specifically, we need to condition behaviour in the image of a real life model: the group of six. Several steps are required to accomplish this:

First, the tax holidays offered to manufacturers under the Encouragement of Investment Law must be scrapped. Such exemptions could be given only to companies setting up shop in special export processing zones. Attempts to improve the law by adding criteria for qualification are a waste of time because the central idea of the law, the temporary tax holiday, is flawed. A permanent tax holiday is fiscally unfeasible and a waste of money given the bias against exports that is inherent in the tax protection.

Reforms introduced in 1988 were cosmetic in nature and difficult to implement. Manufacturers continued to receive tax exemptions even when they did not achieve the export targets they promised in their initial applications. Moreover, incentives for added production capacity are too meagre to have an impact and, in any case, impose cumbersome and inconvenient conditions for eligibility.

Second, the income tax law should be amended to provide manufacturers (other than government-owned firms or monopolies) tax incentives that are directly linked to desired actions such as investment and export.

Specifically, export profits should be exempted from income tax for 10 to 20 years period. Taxes are to be deferred on retained and reinvested profits. Accelerated depreciation and depreciation credits should be offered for productive assets (which would also serve the purpose of encouraging initial investment in start-up ventures).

Tax allowances must also be made for training, marketing and development costs. Currently, such costs are not fully deductible. The net result of all these measures is to provide an effective tax holiday only for deserving companies like the ones in the group of six. Firms which do not export or reinvest in growth will have to pay their share of taxes.

Last, tariffs and production taxes (including sales tax taken at the source) must be flexible and subject to upward and downward adjustments in order to discriminate between efficient and inefficient products. Details of such a system can be worked out in a manner guaranteeing fairness, objectivity, and automaticity (the Taiwanese system may be considered as an example).

The objective is to make tariffs a purely revenue collection instrument and not a cause of inefficiency and export-aversion.

These steps are necessary but not sufficient. The task of rehabilitation, we repeat, is a complicated one and a special and overreaching effort must be made. After all, export-led growth means that we will be competing with more advanced economies in cut-throat rivalry. Yet it is only on the fields of merit that Jordanians can exceed themselves and show the world what this small and gritty nation is really made of: pure gold, I dare say.

LETTER

Shipping to Aqaba

To the Editor,

IN A statement Mr. Tawfiq Kawar, the chairman of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (JSAA) in the Jordan Times issue of March 22, highlighted the decision of Red Sea Express (RSE) to continue serving Aqaba port directly from North European ports, which we appreciate; being working in the shipping community in Jordan. Nevertheless, we disagree with Mr. Kawar when he considered RSE as the only international shipping line to continue regular sailings throughout the Gulf crises, despite the difficulties brought on the imposition of sanctions against Iraq and overzealous enforcement of the embargo. Other international lines also kept serving Aqaba port with fully dedicated regular liner services from Europe, Mediterranean ports and the Far East at the same time.

For instance, Sudan Shipping Lines (SSL), the leading Arab shipping line in the Red Sea, made (41) calls on Aqaba port in 1990 and 34 calls in 1991 inspite of the tough measures taken by the U.N. allied forces against them and the continued loss of Aqaba services. SSL suffered from being delayed at inspection points every time its ships called on Aqaba. Its ships were diverted five times.

Rickmers Lines, the German carriers, kept calling on Aqaba and its ships were diverted to Suez two times. In 1990, they made nine calls on Aqaba and 12 calls in 1991.

Gearbulk, the Norwegian carriers, made 11 calls in 1990 and eight calls in 1991 and one of its ships was diverted.

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, the leading Japanese carriers, never stopped calling on Aqaba as well; they made nine calls in 1990 and other nine in 1992. One of its ships was diverted by international forces in 1990.

Sudan Lines, Rickmers Lines, Gearbulk and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, amongst many others, are still serving Aqaba regularly on direct sailings.

We also disagree with Mr. Kawar regarding the feeder services to Aqaba as he mentioned that such services adversely affect the prominence of Aqaba. In fact, we consider such services advantageous to Aqaba trade due to the following reasons:

1. The availability of feeder services from Jeddah to Aqaba enticed many lines to accept cargo to Aqaba, which was not possible to be on a direct service.

2. The new services on this trade reflected positively on the freight rates to and from Aqaba in favour of Jordan shippers and consignees.

3. The total performance of Aqaba trade was boosted for imports and exports in terms of containerised cargo.

Weekender

April 1, 1993

Published Every Thursday

Diary

Politics bursts onto stage in Jordan

By Suleiman Al Khalidi

Reuter

leaders have sold out their people by supporting Middle East peace talks.

AMMAN — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin picks up the phone and calls a jittery Saudi King Fahd to warn him about Islamic fundamentalism.

It's showtime in Jordan, where once-taboo politics have burst on to centre stage.

"Rabin" and "King Fahd" are characters in *Oil And Arab Robes*, probably the first mainstream play funded by a bardine fundamentalist group — Islamic Jihad. It opened in Jordan after a run in the United States in front of mainly Arab audiences.

"It's fundamentalists who pose the real danger," the make-believe Rabin says to "King Fahd" as the play batters home a message that moderate Palestinian

led by Israel to South Lebanon in December.

A message of violent opposition to Middle East peace talks, at odds with the official Jordanian line, is relayed in often-crude songs and dialogue that slam the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as well as Israel and Britain, which once ruled parts of the region.

"The problem is not with the Palestinian leadership that has agreed with us since 1985 ... it's with those bearded men whom we are unable to talk to," the fictitious Rabin tells the Saudi monarch.

"The oil is your right, the land is your right ... resist the Arabs who have become Jews," says an all-male chorus.

In a concession, however,

to the government-owned venue, the director has removed a final scene in which a fundamentalist shoots dead a secular Palestinian.

"Arafat could have been the Palestinian Samson if he had not given up armed struggle," cries the hero Antar, a stateless bedouin expelled from Kuwait, referring to the PLO chairman.

Antar, named after a legendary Arab Islamic hero known for courage and chivalry, ends up pumping petrol in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty and later hawking car-seat covers — "soft and comfortable, two for \$12" — on a New York street after refusing to succumb to the temptations of oil money in Kuwait.

Travelling in his dreams to a future Palestinian state, he is horrified to find a museum for foreigners desecrating

Jerusalem's holy Al Aqsa Mosque.

"What do Jews want more than this ... their historic enemies have sat with them and given in to their demands," Antar says.

Director Adel Afaneh, a Palestinian-Jordanian who lived in Kuwait until the end of the 1991 Gulf War, brought the play to Jordan after taking it to mainly Arab audiences in five U.S. cities including Philadelphia and New York.

A believer in a "wholly Islamic Palestine", Afaneh does not hide his sympathy with Islamic militants in the occupied territories whom he glorifies as the fighters who sparked the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Jordan's easing of censorship on media and the arts over the last two years has

made

possible

the

trade

of

criticism

levelled

against

Arab

rulers

ridiculed

by

name

on

stage.

"The emirs and sheikhs of the Arab World have changed their religion," says Antar, raging against rulers including King Fahd and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "They seek only sensual and material pleasures while the poor Arabs languish in poverty."

Afaneh said the Jordanian government had cut such themes from some of his earlier plays.

"

This

time

the

censors

did

not

read

the

full

script,"

he

said.

"They've

stopped

under

democracy

routinely

going

through

them."

The

production

has

moved

to

the

industrial

city

of

Zarqa,

has

not

exactly

been

a

box

office

hit.

REHAULED: As part of its efforts to improve the standards of its staff and programmes, Jordan Television is springing some surprises for the new cycle: *Summer of 1993*. Although the management of JTV has kept a tight lid on what those surprises might be, the Diary's penetrating eyes could nevertheless assemble this picture for the expected change. First a JTV backgrounder on the issue at hand. "We know that our programmes during the past few months, especially during Ramadan, have made our viewers switch to other stations for entertainment. That is why we have made quick plans to re-attract Jordanians to JTV programmes. For the Arabic channel, JTV management has apparently commissioned the young Egyptian boy who has become famous in Jordan for his role in the Jabri chocolate advertisement "Tutu" to participate in a locally produced musical comedy television programme of 12 parts. JTV Channel 2 (English channel), however, has already made contacts with television programme distributors to provide them with the new British comedy shows and several American movie hits from last year. The children of Jordan are also expected to be the new highly-valued target of television entertainment efforts. JTV has decided to help produce a generation which is less gloomy and depressed than the older generations, and JTV believes that television is the perfect medium to encourage society to learn how to laugh. Children are more likely to respond to JTV's attempts than older people who have become difficult to bring out. One of the most impressive tactics employed will be the introduction of Walt Disney feature cartoons in the afternoons. JTV knows that it is a complete shift made in a very short time but it is certainly long overdue." Having seen (or actually read) the new JTV picture, you would think it's an April fools joke. But it is, thanks to the fact that JTV can only move if the whole country moves first. Light politics and heavy politicians: Helmut Kohl, Radi Alkhass and all.

SYKES-PICOT REVISITED: A diplomat at the British embassy, who is expected to leave Jordan for another diplomatic posting, is being replaced by a Mr. Roger Sykes who will take over as an economic and political officer. Now Jordanians are not necessarily afraid of reenacting history but after some of us heard that the French embassy is also replacing one of its prominent members with someone who carries the family name of Picot, the immediate feeling of a *deja vu* hit some. Those old enough remember that the two drew up an agreement dividing the region between England and France and providing a homeland in Palestine for Jews. It might all actually happen in a Jordan that is really not prepared to be the recipient of a new dose of the "new world order" but the truth is that only the first half of the story is true. The whole truth is that a Western diplomat who is very sympathetic with the British Council concocted the idea in order to protect Mr. Sykes. The diplomat thought it would be funny if he spread the rumour about a Mr. Jean Picot joining the ranks of the French embassy. It was just a case of the Brits covering their own ... in their perpetual competition with the French.

ENCORE: As if to prove the point, British fate interacted with French fate to create friction with the press. The Jordan Times recently published an editorial congratulating French General Philippe Morillon for leading a U.N. convoy with food and medicine to the Bosnian town of Srebrenica which had been under constant bombardment by the Serbs. A British embassy diplomat immediately complained to the paper for giving too much credit to the French and forgetting that British soldiers had "guarded the road leading to the convoy's destination." This information, about the British role, was apparently published by an Arabic newsletter the embassy had distributed but nobody read. The Jordan Times would have liked the complaint to come in the form of a letter to the editor, but the Brits loathed publicity as a matter of course.

Nermeen Murad

They don't keep taking the tabloids

By Richard Harwood

Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst. They are now virtually extinct. Besides the Post, which may have expired by the time this column appears, the Boston Herald is about the only survivor.

The immigrant urban masses on which the tabloids depended have moved out to middle-class suburbs or have defected to the docudramas of television, the fantasy weeklies in the supermarkets, or the offerings of People magazine. The Post's circulation has dropped below 500,000, less than 5 per cent of metropolitan New York's potential newspaper buyers. Its audience is not held in high esteem by advertisers. Rupert Murdoch, the Australian/British/U.S. press baron, owned the paper from 1976 until 1988 and lost \$150 million in the process. He once met with the owners and managers of the city's big department stores to plead for advertising support. He pointed out that through a variety of gimmicks he had gotten the Post's circulation up to nearly a million. One of the retail barons replied: "Yes, Mr. Murdoch, but

your readers are our shoplifters."

There is no longer an economic rationale for its existence or for daily newspapers like it in the American marketplace. In Britain, these tabloids flourish under the patronage of a large working class of modest educational attainments. But American newspaper readers have outgrown the genre. In nearly every city where there has been competition between the "respectable" middle-class press and its "sensationalist" rivals, respectability has won out. Incredibly, the best-selling newspaper in the New York metropolis is now the "elitist" Times, which more nearly reflects the interests and culture of Westport, Conn., than Brooklyn, the Bronx, or Queens.

The competition from other media has been a big factor in this shakeout. Of the 63 hours a week Americans devote to the "media" — everything from television and movies to books and the Top 40 on radio — only a little more than three hours involves daily newspapers: less than 30 minutes a day.

News. As a consequence, big advertisers poured more and more money into The Post and less and less money into the Star and the News. The News went out of business in 1972, and nine years later the Star went under.

There was another crucial factor in determining winners and losers in these newspaper competitions. The successful papers were the better papers, meaning they devoted more space and money than their rivals to the collection of news and less space and effort to the "sensationalist" coverage of murder, mayhem, and the lives and times of the demi-monde. They appealed, in short, to the upscale audiences, which spend money in quantities that impress the merchants who advertise in newspapers. It is generally believed that the New York Herald Tribune dug its own grave during World War II, when newsprint was in short supply. It cut back on space for news rather than cutting back on space for ads. The New York Times did the opposite and gained a permanent advantage with upscale con-

sumers, which, in turn, led to a postwar advantage with upscale advertisers and ultimately to the death of the Herald Tribune.

The dominant and monopolistic papers today have nothing to fear from the "racy tabloids." But they have new competitors all across the media spectrum. Many papers, because of the advertising recession for the last two or three years, have cut back on news space, reduced their news coverage, and, a la General Motors, IBM and other huge industrial corporations, have chopped away at news-gathering staffs. In these ways they have marginally improved their quarterly reports and given a modest boost to the price of their stocks. Whether those decisions were based on obsolete business theories is an unanswered question. It will be answered in the marketplace, not in tomorrow's Wall Street Journal.

Richard Harwood is a former ombudsman of The Washington Post. The above article is reprinted from the *Guardian* weekly newspaper.

Towards objectivity

Zealots For Zion: Inside Israel's West Bank Settlement Movement.
By Robert I. Friedman.

Random House. 263 pp. \$23

Sleeping On A Wire: Conversations With Palestinians in Israel.
By David Grossman.

Farrar Straus Giroux. 326 pp. \$22

THESE two insightful books are among a new genre of works on Israel that has grown in the past few years in the United States and appears to be setting a higher standard of objectivity for studies of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Although the new works are by no means basically antithetical to Israel, gone is the awed hero worship of Israelis and their achievements that marked books about Israel's first four decades of existence. These books sweep aside the clichés to reveal Israelis and Palestinians rich in diversity and intellectual questing in the midst of their confrontation. Robert I. Friedman and David Grossman are among the pioneers of the new genre. Friedman, an American Jew, and Grossman, an Israeli Jew, established their status with earlier works on Israel's far-right movement and the Palestinians. Now these two authors have turned their considerable talents to similar subjects that have been largely ignored in the United States.

In *Zealots For Zion*, Friedman focuses on Israel's messianic settlers, who would rather wage civil war than surrender the occupied territories. Grossman's *Sleeping On A Wire* examines through lengthy interviews the plight of the nearly one million Palestinians who are Israeli citizens but treated as though they are under occupation like their brethren in the territories. Both works are filled with colourful and conflict-ridden characters. Palestinian and Jewish alike, who make up the opulent human tapestry of modern Israel and Palestine.

Of the two books, Friedman's is likely to have more interest for Americans. It is not only a penetrating look at the violence-prone Israeli zealots who are behind the aggressive establishment of Jewish settlements on Palestinian land in the occupied territories, but also at the Jewish Americans who encourage, justify, and help fund them. Among these Americans are such powerful figures as Laurence Tisch, the chairman of CBS. After Mike Wallace disputed on *60 Minutes* the Israeli version carried by most U.S. media that Palestinians had started the 1990 riot on Jerusalem's Haram Sharif that resulted in the death of 17 Palestinians and the injury of 150 others, Tisch personally called on the carpet the respected reporter and *60 Minutes*

producer Don Hewitt. Friedman reports that Tisch echoed complaints from right-wing Jewish Americans that Wallace's reporting had been unfair to Israel and demanded an explanation. Wallace and Hewitt — both of whom are Jewish — stuck by their story. They were later vindicated when an Israeli magistrate concluded a six-month investigation by reporting that the cause of the tragedy was, as Wallace had suggested, a police — and not a Palestinian — riot. Nonetheless, as any reporter knows, such direct intervention by management has a chilling effect.

It is pressure from American Zionists that helps explain why, as Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg notes, "What everyone in Israel knows as a matter of course often denounces as false and subversive when quoted in America." Friedman shows an amusing example of such distortion when he describes zealous American settlers trying to convince fellow Americans that settlements by the extremist Gush Emunim group were founded in part on the teachings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. As Friedman notes, such settlements "had borrowed about as much from Emerson as ... from Saint Francis of Assisi."

BOOK REVIEW

Friedman amply demonstrates that Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the founder and continuing leader of Gush Emunim, is anything but a Jewish transcendentalist. He is, rather, a fundamentalist who welcomes violent confrontations with the Palestinians, and was himself once jailed briefly for killing a Palestinian. When Jewish terrorists machine-gunned a classroom at the Islamic College in Hebron in 1983, killing three students and wounding 33, Levinger declared: "Whoever did this has sanctified God's name in public." Friedman asserts that organised pro-Israeli lobbies contribute to the distortion between what Israelis know and Americans don't. Friedman calls the most powerful of these groups the "neoconservative trinity" — AIPAC, the ADL and the Presidents' Conference. Of these, Friedman says, "The trinity didn't recognise the legitimacy of a 'loyal' Zionist opposition. As far as it was concerned, all criticism of Israel, whether espoused by anti-Zionist black militants like Leonard Jeffries, American nativists like Pat Buchanan, or left-wing Labour Zionists like Abba Eban was a threat to Israel, and so had to be discredited."

Just how successful this trinity had been is illustrated by Grossman's *Sleeping On A Wire*, which explores the various injustices Israel has imposed on what it calls Arab Israelis. These Palestinians left stranded in territory that was to become Israel in 1948 after some 726,000 of their brethren were driven or fled from their land were granted

Israeli citizenship and are now a significant minority making up nearly 20 per cent of Israel's population. Yet in the United States they are an almost unknown component of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In large part, the obscurity of the Palestinian citizens of Israel has resulted from the success of U.S. lobbying groups in discrediting critics of Israel's human rights abuses against its own Palestinian citizens. They have done this by challenging the credentials of the critics and maintaining that the Palestinians are fully integrated first-class citizens of Israel enjoying all the benefits of the state that Jews

enjoy. But if this is so, asks Grossman, where among the Palestinian minority "are the VCRs and the computers that you can find in almost every Jewish school? Where are the laboratories, the workshops, the sports facilities? Where are the counsellors?" Instead of equality, the Palestinian citizens have been systematically discriminated against. Not one Palestinian Israeli has ever been a government minister or a supreme court justice. Only three are employed (out of 1,000) at the Ministry of Justice. Palestinians make up 55 per cent of the Israeli families living under the poverty line. Their villages receive only 6 per cent of Israel's development funds, and their farmers are allocated only 2.4 per cent of the water.

Grossman warns that the treatment of Palestinian Israelis as second class citizens cannot continue to be ignored in any just settlement of the conflict. As Grossman observes, "It is not hard to imagine the results of this discrimination. An explosion by the Palestinians in Israel over ongoing discrimination and humiliation will be complex and dangerous when an independent Palestinian entity exists." To prevent such an internal intifada, Grossman urges that the status of Israel's Palestinians become part of the peace negotiations so that "any agreement with the Arabs should be complete and final, ending absolutely all border and land disputes, all claims and ambiguities between the two peoples."

Such a clear resolution of the convoluted Palestinian-Israeli conflict is unlikely. Yet these two books give hope that at least the problems — if not the solutions — will begin to emerge in all their human complexity, shorn of the partisanship that up to now has generally tainted works on Israel and the Middle East, especially in the United States.

Somewhere over the rainbow

By Jean-Claude Elias

If you are using a personal computer (PC), chances are that the most important part of what you're doing and the beautiful conclusion of all your efforts is in the printout. Hence the importance of having the right printer.

Once are the days when you had to buy very expensive printers only to find that their printout quality was less than acceptable and looked like hieroglyphics instead of your native language. For anything between JD 200 and JD 500 you can now purchase an excellent and fast Letter-Quality printer, with characters' sharpness on a par with the best daisy-wheel typewriters. Such machines however, for the most part, offer black-on-white printing only.

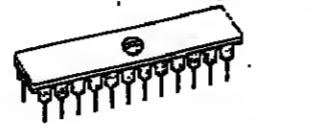
With the extensive use of drawings, business graphics and general charts, the current trend in personal computing, colour work has become a must. Having superb colour graphics on a high resolution screen and then turning them into dull black-and-white hard copy (printed paper) is a very disappointing and frustrating experience. Most users agree that this is a major weakness in PC systems.

Naturally the computer industry has more than one solution. How good and, especially, how feasible are these solutions?

At the bottom of the range, manufacturers propose standard dot-matrix printers fitted with both a black and a four-colour ribbon. Though quite affordable for the private user — their prices are in the same range as above, JD 200 to JD 500 — they are very slow and do not produce quality colours. These are obtained by a combination of the main four colours on the ribbon. The ink density is not evenly distributed and the actual number of possible colours is very limited. Because of this limitation, the computer first checks the drawing's colours on the screen, they can be hundreds or even millions, and then decides which is the closest colour available on the printer. The beautiful and fashionable fuchsia you are admiring on the monitor will end as plain blue on such a printer. This won't satisfy those who do art drawing, but it would still be all right for business charts.

In the middle of range, quality and colour ink-jet printers cost between JD 1,000 and JD 2,000 but offer output which is incomparably superior to the above described machines. The resolution (sharpness) of the ink-jet is close, and sometimes superior, to the laser printer. Hewlett-Packard, a leading name in this technology, manufactures a model named PaintJet able to produce 16 million different colours

chip talk



with the essential feature of allowing the user to exactly match the screen colours with the printer's, thanks to the international Pantone colour numbers. Lexmark, an IBM brand for printers, has just launched another similar model with very professional features, though two times more expensive than the Hewlett-Packard's. Epson, a leading name in printers is coming up with their own solution.

The sophisticated colour ink-jet printers are not very fast when compared to black-and-white models. Moreover, their running cost is prohibitive for most private users. Due to the fact that specially coated paper must be used for good results, and the high price of the ink bottles, the average cost of a printed A4 sheet reaches as much as half a dinar. Beyond financial considerations, using efficiently these printers requires some technical background as they are not intended for those who are beginners in the field of PCs.

At the very top of the range we find a type of colour printers that rely on a combination of different techniques like laser and thermal transfer for instance, and produce the best printout money can buy with vivid, bright and consistent colours, along with very high resolution. The starting price is around JD 5,000 and can go up to JD 20,000 or JD 30,000. The cost of these printers and the fact that it takes experienced computer professionals to run them puts them far beyond the limits of personal computing.

In conclusion, choosing a colour printer, whether dot-matrix or ink-jet, is a question of correctly estimating the price of the printer, its running cost and how user-friendly it is. Most of all, if dot-matrix is selected, the user has to be aware that he or she is trading high resolution monochrome printing for low resolution colours. Some will simply prefer a good black-and-white laser printer (able to produce shades of grey) instead of a middle-of-the-road colour one.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 1

8:30 *Chance In A Million*
9:10 *Quantum Leap*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Feature Film*

Friday, April 2

8:30 *Billy*

9:10 *E.N.G.*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Miniseries — Wagner*

Saturday, April 3

8:30 *Super Bloopers And New Practical Jokes*

Scenes showing the bloopers and mistakes of celebrities and actors.

9:00 *Local Programme — Perspective*

9:30 *Saturday Variety Show*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Feature Film — Lady In A Corner*

Starring: Brian Keith, Lindsay Frost and Christopher Neame.

Grace, editor in chief of a prestigious fashion magazine, fights to keep it from falling into the hands of an immoral publisher.

Sunday, April 4

8:30 *Who's The Boss?*

Part 2 of the last episode in which Tony fights against the government plan to reduce the budget for the elderly.

9:10 *Documentary — Equinox*

The Healing Mind

A scientific report on how the body is affected by mental exhaustion.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *French Series — Vol-*

taire: Ce Diable D'Homme

Monday, April 5

8:30 *The Powers That Be*

Gramma gate

The senator, his wife and his daughter fall into a series of traps.

9:10 *Marlin Bay*

Hemits represents an industrial firm. He wants to invest in a contracting business in Marlin Bay where the casinos and the beautiful shores are.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Feature Film — Sunset Boulevard*

Starring: William Holden, Gloria Swanson

An old classic about an aging actress who falls madly in love with a young writer and kills him when he tries to desert her.

Wednesday, April 7

10:20 *Jordan Weekly*

10:40 *Street Justice*

Legacy

Sergeant Adam tries to arrest a hit man in order to use him as a witness against a gang.

9:00 *Spotlight*

9:30 *Documentary*

Tuesday, April 6

10:00 *News In English*

8:30 *Step By Step*

10:20 *Miniseries*

9:10 *Forever Green*

Jack's family mingles with the new community.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Feature Film — Sunset Boulevard*

Starring: William Holden, Gloria Swanson

An old classic about an aging actress who falls madly in love with a young writer and kills him when he tries to desert her.

Wednesday, April 7

8:30 *Chance In A Million*

Alison is looking for a new flat and Tom asks her to stay in one of the rooms of his.

9:00 *Spotlight*

9:30 *Documentary*

Tuesday, April 6

10:00 *News In English*

8:30 *Step By Step*

10:20 *Miniseries*

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Friday, April 2

1983 — Britain and France refuse to support construction of Baghdad Railway.

1917 — U.S. President Woodrow Wilson summons special session of Congress to declare war upon Germany.

1947 — U.N. Security Council appoints U.S. as trustee for Pacific islands formerly under Japanese mandate; Britain refers Palestine question to United Nations.

1968 — Yemen charges Britain with air attacks on its territory.

1990 — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein says he would use binary nerve gas weapons — outlawed since 1925 — against Israel if attacked.

Saturday, April 3

1936 — Ras Tafari becomes Emperor Haile Selassie of Abyssinia (Ethiopia).

1941 — British troops evacuate Lihyan port of Ben-gazi during World War II.

1972 — Japan's Prime Minister Eisaku Sato ack-

nowledges to the Diet (parliament) personal responsibility for negotiations over the return of Okinawa from the United States to Japan.

1979 — Pakistan's former prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, ousted in coup 21 months earlier, is executed by hanging.

1988 — Iraq says its warplanes raided two Iranian oil refineries, but Iran says the bombs hit residential areas.

1991 — U.N. Security Council votes 12-1 to accept ceasefire resolution requiring Iraq to destroy its weapons of mass destruction and authorising peacekeeping troops to be deployed in the region.

1992 — Boris Yeltsin reshuffles his cabinet in a key parliament session.

Sunday, April 4

1949 — North Atlantic Treaty is signed in Washington by foreign ministers of United States, Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Canada for mutual assistance against aggression in North Atlantic.

1989 — Vietnam announces it will withdraw all its troops from Cambodia by Sept. 30 to encourage political settlement of the 10-year

old conflict.

1990 — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, edges away from demand that unified Germany be neutral.

1991 — Iraq's ambassador to the U.N. says his government will accept a U.N. fact-finding team to investigate the plight of the Kurds.

1992 — British forces capture Badajoz in Spain.

1909 — U.S. explorer Robert E. Peary reaches North Pole.

1917 — United States declares war on Germany.

1945 — U.S. Naval Forces score victory over Japanese at Kyushu in World War II.

1958 — Fidel Castro begins "total war" against Batista government in Cuba.

1971 — Pakistan airlifts foreigners from East Pakistan as fighting rages during a revolt.

1989 — Vietnam announces it will withdraw all its troops from Cambodia by Sept. 30 to encourage political settlement of the 10-year

conflict.

By The Associated Press

Eid Al Fitr

By E. Yaghi

After the long and strenuous month of fasting in Ramadan, Shaker and his family were happy and excited for the advent of Eid Al Fitr. The last few days of the holy month were spent in preparing the house for the occasion. Windows were washed, rugs cleaned, furniture polished, prayer rugs laundered and even ma'moul baked. A sort of spring cleaning combined with holiday atmosphere gave Shaker's house a different atmosphere of order and shine. Gone until next Ramadan were the tedious meals consisting of more one, main course and the mountain of dirty dishes that inevitably followed. Gone too, was gripping lethargy that seemed to creep into each family member's physique during the last hours before the setting of the sun.

On the day of the feast, everyone in Shaker's household rose before the Eid prayer, showered and dressed in their new and best clothes to prepare themselves for the first deluge of arrivals that would soon ring the doorbell. And so it happened, at around 6:45 a.m., the first surge congregated together to greet Shaker, his family and especially his elderly mother who lived with him. Everything had to be prepared beforehand for the very early visitors who had no time to wait for coffee and tea. It was made as there were still many houses to visit and Shaker's was the first on their list.

The stairway filled with the echo of men's voices and the guest room overflowed to capacity with about 36 men who greeted the elderly woman who was either everyone's sister, aunt, mother or grandmother. "Kul senna wa int salmeh!" all the men said as they grabbed her hand and either kissed it or shook it firmly.

One of Shaker's sons was ready with a thermos of hot plump Arabic coffee while the other passed around holiday candy and ma'moul. It was refreshing to be able to eat during daylight for the first time in 30 days. As the first group still sat, another entered and joined the first. Those sitting stood up to shake the newcomers' hands. More coffee and sweets were passed around and behind the scenes, in the kitchen, the mountain of dishes that prevailed always in Ramadan was replaced by a mountain of cups and glasses as tea and coffee were repeatedly made again and again.

At about 7:30 a.m., Shaker, his brother and many cousins departed to make the rounds to all the other houses

of their relatives. Most of the houses they visited were in the same neighbourhood, but some homes were further away so the good wishes had to be transported around in a line of cars. One son remained behind so that he would serve any new guests who might arrive with more tea and coffee. A steady stream of visitors continued to come that first day of the Eid to pay their respects to Shaker's mother and household. Countless cups of caffeine beverages were prepared and glasses and cups washed and re-washed until way after dark.

During a break of attending to guests, Eman, Shaker's wife, was informed by one of her sons: "Mom, this is the first Eid that you made ma'moul and they weren't as hard as rocks. Remember that receipt so that you can make them in the future as well as you did this time!"

"That's true," she replied, embarrassed. "For the first time in my life I made good ma'moul. They are so soft, almost too soft. At least now I can put them in front of our guests without their teeth falling out when they eat."

"At last at 8 o'clock that evening, no more visitors came and Shaker and his exhausted family finished with all the company for the day. However tiring it was, as Shaker said, "it is so good to finally break our fast and thank God, we are all in good health and happy too."

His mother was pleased that she was able to see all her sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren. Shaker's boys were relieved that they didn't have to fast any longer, proud of their new clothes and busy counting their money gained from their father, grandmother and uncle. As for Eman, her hands grew rough and red from all the washing up she did, but as she stated: "It was all worth it, after all Eid Al Fitr comes but once a year and what a nice time for a holiday than after thirty days of fasting. One of the most beautiful sights is how everyone's children are all dressed up and delighted on this day. It's as if all Jordan is adorned in its holiday best, the face of the Eid, a period of joy and thanksgiving."

It's also the beginning of spring and everything is green after the long cold winter. Grass has sprouted up everywhere, leaves are sprouting out on trees and the first flowers are starting to bloom. The mountain circles at last are busy again with a multitude of families coming and going and little children who play football, hide and seek or fly kites. To everyone. Happy Eid!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

BONERS

- * A CALF is a calf until it has a calf and then it's a cow.
- * THE BOTTOM of the sea is composed of clay and fine sentiments.
- * A SKELETON is a man or person without meat or skin.

Boundless creativity sets Mustapha Razzaz apart

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — As a boy, Mustapha Razzaz quickly developed the most sophisticated art of subterfuge so as to be able to do what he enjoyed most — painting.

Mustapha showed artistic promise from an early age. He saved every last cent of his pocket money to put towards buying materials for his painting and sculpture. But his father was bitterly opposed to what he regarded as a time-wasting and dangerous hobby.

"He was scared I was not going to make it in high school," recalls Mr. Razzaz. "All the teachers were sending messages saying it would be fatal if I kept on drawing. Any painting he found, he would destroy, and be burnt my brushes and paints when be found them. So I used to sneak out to the garden room with a wire and a light-bulb and spend all night working there. It was like smuggling."

Mr. Razzaz's father did not live long enough to see his son become one of Egypt's best-known painters, with an entire wing of Cairo's Museum of Modern Art devoted to his work, and wall space in major museums from Oslo to Bahrain. But inadvertently, he helped Mr. Razzaz lay the foundations for his success by gaining him access to Cairo's National Library where he was a curator. Mr. Razzaz spent every spare minute there, poring over ancient Islamic and Arabic manuscripts, exploring

the worlds of mysticism, fantasy and alchemy which were to feature so strongly in his work later on.

"I was especially interested by the folkloric manuscripts and miniatures," said Mr. Razzaz in an interview in Rome where he was holding a month-long exhibition until mid-February. "These were done by ancient authors from about 800 years ago. They were full of fantasy and magic symbols. They were like textbooks in those days, to enable people to read the stars, to read fortunes or to interpret events according to the constellations. Entry to see these manuscripts was almost forbidden to anyone else, but I used to go there almost every day. I was fascinated by them."

The fantastic features strongly in Mr. Razzaz's art. The manuscripts which unleashed his own imagination were full of strange animals — part-turtle, part-elephant, weird beasts with wings — and Mr. Razzaz's canvases are clearly coloured by them. In his work, the theme of metamorphosis is a recurrent one.

Time and time again, a human face is transfigured into a bird, or a human body becomes that of a borse or a plant.

He also admits to being influenced by the readings of the Sufi monks, an Islamic tradition whose members devote their lives to contemplation. "There was no difference between the kingdoms in the Sufis' way of thinking, no

difference between the social or the sacred classes," said Mr. Razzaz. "A man could be selected to become a bird to contain his arrogance, and could then be a horse to learn courage and daring and cutting the ornamental pieces from the tops of the houses. It was an area very rich in folk art."

The paintings done from this trip are the hues of the Nubian desert — mud browns and sandy beiges, enlivened by a single splash of colour. "People wear very colourful hats and the ladies wear very strong, daring colours," said the Egyptian painter. "It is as if an artist had taken a palette and put a touch of colour here and there to give some energy to the composition."

An exhibition of some 2,000 sketches from his tour helped place Nubia firmly in the public mind. A request by Mr. Razzaz to Egypt's culture minister resulted in President Gamal Abdul Nasser himself interceding to make sure the Nubians, unhappy about the way they were treated after their evacuation, were allowed to build new homes in the style and tradition they were used to.

The show also put Mr. Razzaz on the map. He was hailed as a new star by critics and public alike. "This was my first ever exhibition, and everyone was talking about my art work, my trip, my future for the art movement in Egypt," he said. At the time, Mr. Razzaz was still a student at Cairo's College of Art. Soon after graduating, he staged a second show, this time a collection of mammoth oil paintings, many of them three metres long by more than one metre wide.

That too was met with wide acclaim, but it almost cost him his sight. An immensely prolific painter, Mr. Razzaz imposed on himself a gruelling schedule working 18 hours a day to complete the canvases. In those days, in order to get the best light, he used a balcony of the family apartment to do his painting. But he began to notice that his eyes were weakening.

"The doctor told me if I didn't stop, I would go blind within five years," he said. "The sun was illuminating the white board and reflecting into my eyes." There was no room for a proper studio in the cramped family home, so Mr. Razzaz resorted to desperate measures. He would wait until everyone in the house had gone to bed before settling down to begin

his own working day. "I used to work on the dining table from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m., then I would clean everything up in time for breakfast," he said.

But the table was not big enough to take the larger canvases Mr. Razzaz so enjoyed working on. He moved to the floor. But this caused another problem. "When you do a large painting, you need to look at it from a distance, and that wasn't possible in this apartment," he said. Undaunted, Mr. Razzaz came up with an ingenious solution to his dilemma. "I would wait till about 4 a.m. and take the painting down and put it on the street. Then I'd run back up to the balcony to look at it — hoping no dogs or cars would pass. Afterwards, I'd go back and work on it, and then carry it down once again."

Razzaz is an easy talker and an accomplished storyteller. A favourite tale is the behind-the-scenes saga of one of his most famous works, a giant sculpture on the road that leads to Cairo's airport. Mr. Razzaz was commissioned to design a giant mural, measuring 33 metres by 12 metres and sink the

structure into the side of the mountain. The sculpture was due to be finished in time to be unveiled by newly-installed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But a last-minute battle developed when the artist refused to make the president's face the subject of the mural.

In the end, Mr. Razzaz won, but just 12 days remained before Mr. Mubarak was due to officiate at the inaugural ceremony — and work had yet to begin. "In the end, we got it done — a silhouette made of 40 tonnes of steel and 120 tonnes of concrete — in time for the president's visit," said Mr. Razzaz. "I worked with a team of 20 people doing four shifts a day, around the clock. I myself slept for just one hour."

Mr. Razzaz, now 51, still sets himself a punishing pace. As well as being a full-time artist he is rector at the Faculty of Artistic and Musical Education at Cairo University. Married to Saria Sidky — herself a graphics artist — Mr. Razzaz also finds time to supervise his two daughters, Dena, 22, and Hala, 19, who are both studying to follow in their father's footsteps. His



Ancient manuscripts fired Mustapha Razzaz's imagination, adding a touch of mysticism to his paintings

latest commission is to design a tapestry for the Cairo Opera House.

Since his second exhibition, Mr. Razzaz has staged a major show at least once a year, many of them overseas. "I've always felt that if I wasn't exhibiting, I would become lazy and too content," he said. "No sooner is one show over than the Egyptian artist settles down in front of a blank canvas and starts all over again, often in a very different style, pushing himself to the limit. I deliberately put myself in that situation," he said. "It forces me to move on, and that is why there has been such a development in my painting."

Mr. Razzaz's style is indeed immensely varied. "Sometimes I use very earthy colours, like sand and mud, while in some other paintings you find the colours are exploding," said the artist. "Sometimes you find clear-cut photographic elements and other times you find elements are floating on top of the paintings or dissolving."

The metamorphosis theme obsessed him for years, albeit taking many different forms of expression. Then, two years ago it disappeared as suddenly as it had begun. "I felt I was becoming repetitive, and I have a phobia of being prototypical or repetitive."

Now, Mr. Razzaz has found a new studio and, although it is still harsher than he would like, the artist's irrepressible optimism has turned a potential tragedy into something approaching a mixed blessing. "I've been reborn — again," he said with a broad smile. "I'm starting from scratch."

At about that time, disaster struck: His studio was burnt to the ground, depriving him not just of a place to work but also robbing him of thousands of sketches and meticulously organised archives. "It was a very gloomy experience," he said. "It was like losing your own memory because my library, my sketches, my tools, my old paintings, were all burnt."

Now, Mr. Razzaz has found a new studio and, although it is still harsher than he would like, the artist's irrepressible optimism has turned a potential tragedy into something approaching a mixed blessing. "I've been reborn — again," he said with a broad smile. "I'm starting from scratch."

World News Link.



Painter Mustapha Razzaz kept Nubia, which is now buried under the Aswan Dam alive for posterity scenes from the Aswan Dam



The theme of metamorphosis is a recurrent one in Mustapha Razzaz's paintings, with fantastic creatures, part human, part bird

Maurice Béjart reinvents dance

By Olivier Clément

There is dance before Béjart and dance after Béjart. In a career spanning thirty years, he has completely turned this art topsy-turvy, giving it an almost cosmic dimension. Today, with a new troupe, he continues his adventure.

PARIS — "Dance is a spontaneous manifestation of the being. It is life itself. Is it not a child's first reflex?" Thus speaks Maurice Béjart, the creator of the "ballets du 20ème siècle," and he adds: "This spontaneity, channelled, thought out and rationalised, becomes a language, a poem."

In 1963, in Buenos Aires, a young 16-year-old, Jorge Donn, fell in love with that new Béjart style of dancing. He had been impressed by a radical or musical, from Mozart's 9th Symphony to

performance put on by the "ballets du 20ème siècle". He was fascinated by that new choreographic language. It was a far cry from Swan Lake and the conventions of the classical repertoire with its stereotyped characters.

Indeed, in the early 60s, Béjart had dazzlingly invented a completely new art. Dance became more than dance. It became a universal art, a melting pot of all arts, of all ideas and of all inventions, embracing all the great human themes as they are reflected through the great works, be they literary, theatrical, from Romeo and Juliette to the Magic Flute.

And what was just as extraordinary was that this fantastic revolution was to be offered to the general public all over the world. Indeed, Béjart was the first choreographer to create big popular choreographic shows able to draw great crowds.

Jorge Donn was aged 16. He was as good-looking as an angel and as strong as a god. He was extremely keen to dance for that "brilliant creator" as he was later to describe him. He was taken on and became the figurehead, the ideal dancer of the "20th century ballets" whose prodigious adventure was beginning.

But Béjart was not content

with making dance a completely new art. He changed its main character. The latter was no longer the outdated "prince charming" of the past. He became the man of today, modern man, even simply man himself taken in the absolute sense: tormented and full of contradictions, but seeking the light.

This spiritual dimension is perfectly expressed by Jorge Donn, the portrayer of "man" according to Béjart, that is to say the image of the divine. As this is the realm of dance, this beauty is expressed through the beauty of the body and its expression. The light of the spirit speaks through the light of the body.

Exceptional brilliance

Moreover, a critic has written:

"By his strong presence, Jorge Donn captivates, but

the exceptional brilliance radiating from him comes from something deeper: From a total commitment which makes him imprint spirituality on his slightest movement."

Béjart's faculty for wonder and openness is not only turned upwards. It extends to the whole world and to all cultures which leave him marvelling. "I have a passion for learning about other cultures. When I am in a country I have to blend in. As soon as I arrive, I eat and live like the people in that country. I participate". This is what enabled him to give a universal dimension to his shows, from the great fundamental myths: "I did some Kabuki in Tokyo and a ballet on Mozart in Vienna."

Spiritual Man, Universal Man or Eternal Man? "Fashion and modernity are confused. Fashion goes out of fashion. Modernity does not exist as a function of time. Mozart is modern. Rembrandt is modern exactly like Picasso is modern and will always remain so. If one is really modern, one remains modern for ever."

So what does he think of his work, after thirty years of triumph all over the world? He avoids the question: "One shouldn't look back. One should continue to search." Perhaps he thinks that dance, which is like life taken at its source, cannot become fixed, even in eternity.

At any rate, he has a very



Maurice Béjart, the creator of the "ballets du 20ème siècle"

personal view of time, a mystical view. "Life means beginning again all the time. We live the end of a cycle, but the end of a cycle is only ever the end of an illusion." Could these words have been inspired by some Far-Eastern philosophy?

No, this westerner has chosen his spiritual landmarks closer to home. He has chosen Islam.

Why Islam? "I met a man in Iran, who opened up my horizons. He was the very example of tolerance as he said to me: If you want to work with me I would quite

understand if you did not adopt my religion. He was absolutely open to all external forms of religious practice, on condition that the inside was in harmony with the outside." He adds: "Pure, hardline Islam is a caricature of true Islam. It is as if the Inquisition was the only image of Christianity."

Béjart concludes with surprising praise of the three religions "of the Book", taken as a whole: "The Koran unites the three religions which have not stopped fighting one another. They are like three variations on a theme. The Muslims who are

not fanatics call it the religions of the Book. They are privileged religions."

Maurice Béjart, who is an innovator in dance, also offers some surprise when it comes to mysticism. It is a favourite area for him, as one can see: "I do not think one can teach people to wriggle without knowing why they do it. A spiritual direction is needed," he says, thinking of the new troupe that, at the age of 65, he recently created and which has already presented six new ballets — *L'Actualité En France*.



Jorge Donn, the portrayer of "Man" according to Béjart

The Hospice Movement in Jordan

By Thomas J. Fitzpatrick

THE HOSPICE Movement, which began in England in the 1960s, has come to Jordan under the name The Humanistic Care Society. This pilot programme which is centred in Amman is hoped to be a model for other such programmes in Jordan and, perhaps, elsewhere in the Arab World. The aim of the project is to provide palliative care, that is, a care which is human and comforting on all levels. This care is intended as support for patients and their families when curative care is no longer possible. The ideal is to provide this care in the home where the patient and family have maximum control and independence. Essentially, though, the Hospice Movement stresses a quality kind of care rather than a specific place for the care. The movement is characterised by an all permeating assumption that with proper support life is worth living — the emphasis being on quality of daily life, not quantity.

The need for such a project has risen very much out of the deficiency of the high-tech medical world in meeting the human needs of people facing desperate medical situations. Often in the busy, busy world of modern medicine with all its specialties, machines and demanding timetables, there is not the opportunity or atmosphere for medical personnel to meet the basic human needs of very sick and dying patients. Further, contemporary medicine is

geared to success — no doctor or nurse wants to feel they have failed. The helpless feeling in treating very sick and dying people easily creates a situation in which medical personnel may wish to avoid these patients. They may distance themselves as a means of coping.

Hospice care is provided by a team of professionals working together for the physical, emotional, social and spiritual good of the patient and family. Medical doctors and nurses would aim at meeting the medical needs of the patients — this often may mean a process of pain management. Counselors and social workers would be involved to help the patients and families deal with the stress arising from the illness. And further, according to the wishes of the patient, religious assistance would be available to help deepen faith convictions or recognise new religious awakenings.

Although these individual professionals would possess a specific expertise the Hospice Movement sees assistance to patients and families in a holistic way. That means that all personnel would aim to be conscious of all the needs of the patients and families. So, a doctor is not just treating a diseased body, but a human being with other levels of pain: Emotional, social, spiritual. To be aware of the total needs of patients and families the professional team has the added challenge of sensitivity and good communication within the team.

In considering the advisability of such a programme in Jordan the Professional Working Committee sought the opinions of many individuals and institutions. It became clear that there are many patients throughout Jordan who are in pain and for whom curative care is no longer feasible. Further, the level of medical expertise and technology available in Jordan is advanced. This advanced medical expertise suffers from what advanced medical expertise suffers everywhere: A tendency to neglect the human needs of patients. As an ancillary arm to contemporary medical practice the Hospice Movement would hope to meet both human and physical needs of patients and their families.

This humanistic movement would provide services to all people — those who can afford to pay and those who cannot. The charge for professional services will be based on the ability of the patient to pay. The ideal is simple: Make services available to all appropriate patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

If this movement is to succeed here in Jordan it must be thoroughly Jordanian and Arab. It seems that there are deep values in Arab life which this programme evokes. One has to do with the very root meaning of 'Hospice', and that is hospitality. Arabs are known for their sense of welcoming. The ideal of the Hospice is to welcome the patients to a kind of care where they can feel at home —

and that means to be as independent and in control as is possible, and where they can receive needed care in a spirit of acceptance and graciousness. A further strength of Arab culture is the closeness of family life. In providing home-based care the Hospice is an extension of the community and a support to the family. In the complexities of the contemporary world families cannot always provide the care they perhaps once could. The Hospice is a help to families coping with the short or prolonged illness of one of its members. As hospitality and family are central strengths of Arab life, so they will be basic foundations for the Hospice Movement in Jordan.

Those who work on the Professional Working Committee organising this Hospice Programme in Amman are: Mrs. Abdul Salam Majali, Mrs. Roger Harrison, Dr. Soussan Majali, Dr. Nart Wardam, Ms. Sophie Karmash, Ms. Ruba Al Taher, Dr. Bashir Atiyat, Dr. Hania Dawani, (Rev.) Dr. Thomas Fitzpatrick.

In late April three Jordanian health care professionals will be sent to St. Christopher's Hospice in England and Montgomery Hospice in Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A., for training. While the programme is being developed, further information may be obtained by calling Ms. Sophia Karmash at the General Union of Voluntary Societies, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., workdays; number 634001 or 630398. The writer is the director of the Jesuit Centre in Amman.

Third World plants may offer AIDS treatment

By Neil McKenna

LONDON: Recent discoveries that plants from India, Africa and the Pacific islands show potential for the treatment of AIDS are raising hopes for those affected by the disease, but also spurring questions about whether the countries where the plants are found will share in the profits.

Worldwide, 12 million people are already infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and experts estimate that 40 million will be infected by the year 2000. Unless a treatment is found, most will die of AIDS.

Thus, as the global AIDS pandemic accelerates out of control, scientists around the world are in a race against time to find a cure — or at least an effective treatment — for HIV. Increasingly, scientists are turning their attention to the plant kingdom, which has been the source of many important new medicines.

India's National Institute of Immunology in New Delhi

is currently investigating seven plants which have been used in the ancient Indian ayurvedic system of medicine. All the plants are known for their anti-stress, immune-boosting properties — and are free from side-effects.

In the United States, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Natural Products Programme is the world's largest project to screen natural substances for anti-HIV properties. Since 1987, the programme has examined more than 41,000 natural products, just a tiny fraction of the world's plant population. Nearly all the plants screened so far have come from tropical and subtropical areas, especially rainforests, because of the rich diversity of flora to be found in those regions.

One of the NCI's most dramatic successes was announced earlier this year: A previously unclassified woody vine of the genus *Ancistrocladus* discovered by a British botanist in a remote

corner of the rainforest in Cameroon. An extract from the vine called Michellamine B has shown strong anti-HIV activity in the test-tube.

But scientists caution against premature optimism. They say it can take anything from five to 15 years before a promising substance in the laboratory can be transformed into a safe and effective drug for humans.

Scientists are acutely aware of the need to protect and preserve the earth's biological diversity. Less than 1 per cent of tropical plant species have been examined for their pharmaceutical potential.

Many plant species have already become extinct. Harvard biologist Edward Wilson estimates that nearly 140 species become extinct every day. Some experts believe that in the next 30 years, one-quarter of all plant species could die out — their medical potential lost with them.

This was very nearly the case with a plant from a tiny Western Samoan island in the

Pacific Ocean which has yielded another promising AIDS drug. American ethnobotanist Dr. Paul Cox saved the island's rainforest from destruction by the bulldozers in 1987 when he bought the forest. Subsequently, a plant from the rainforest, *Homalanthus Nutans*, used by native healers to treat yellow fever, was found by NCI's screening programme to contain a substance called Prostratin which — in the test-tube at least — seems to protect cells against the HIV virus.

The NCI has signed agreements with the 25 African, South East Asian, and Central and South American countries where it is collecting specimens. These accords give the countries a percentage of royalties on sales of drugs derived from their plants. Wherever possible, NCI also hopes to work with countries to develop drug-yielding plants into cash crops. They hope that arrangements like these will encourage developing na-

tions to safeguard their biological heritage.

But Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN), a Barcelona-based organisation concerned with preserving the diversity of plant species throughout the developing world, would rather see standard global agreements on this kind of plant prospecting.

"As long as these deals are made on a bilateral basis,"

says Henk Hobbelink of GRAIN, "there will always be a question of fairness."

Some plants undergoing clinical evaluation for their anti-HIV properties have been prized for centuries for their medicinal properties. The Centre for Natural and Traditional Medicines (CNTM) in Washington DC has been advocating the use of plant medicines in the treatment of HIV and AIDS since the 1980s. In 1988,

CNTM hosted the first international conference on traditional medicines and AIDS and has established clinical trials of natural therapies for AIDS patients.

"We know of hundreds of possible traditional medicines and remedies for AIDS — many of them from plants — which are in constant use," says Kaya Montacean of CNTM. She points out that more than 80 per cent of

people throughout the world who are suffering from AIDS turn to traditional remedies and healers because Western medicine and drugs are either unavailable or unaffordable.

Last year CNTM set up an international Healing Roots Network in Mexico, Brazil, Uganda, and Zimbabwe to promote and disseminate information about traditional medicines in the treatment of HIV and AIDS — Panos features.

Malaria vaccine pioneer has his sights on AIDS

By Michael Stott
Reuter

BOGOTA — The leader of a team that developed an effective new anti-malaria vaccine says his work may lead to breakthroughs against other deadly diseases such as tuberculosis and even AIDS.

"The malaria vaccine is the world's first chemically produced vaccine and it opens up an immense gateway for the development of new vaccines and the improvement of existing ones," Dr. Manuel Elkin Patarroyo told Reuters.

He said that "obviously a very good candidate to develop a vaccine using this method is AIDS". He gave no details and did not say when new vaccines might be ready to test.

Dr. Patarroyo and his team at Bogota's San Juan De Dios Hospital reported in the Brit-

ish medical publication the Lancet that their vaccine helped prevent the most common and lethal strain of Malaria.

The disease is one of the Third World's biggest killers, infecting 300 million people a year and killing more than three million, mostly in Africa.

"We have already vaccinated 41,135 people around the world, mainly in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Tanzania," Dr. Patarroyo said, adding that there were plans to start inoculating people in Cambodia, Thailand, Gabon, Senegal, Gambia and the Central African Republic.

Even as Dr. Patarroyo and his team of 65 researchers refined the vaccine, they were already working on the next step — applying similar techniques to find a vaccine against tuberculosis.

"Once one knows which are the important molecules (in a bacterium or virus) and ... which parts of the molecules are the critical ones, one can synthesise them quickly and mass produce them to use them as vaccines," Dr. Patarroyo said.

He clutched a jar filled with a white sponge-like substance which is dissolved in a salt solution to make the malaria vaccine.

The jovial and energetic Dr. Patarroyo is used to confounding critics and surprising scientists in developed countries.

"They were a bit reluctant to accept our data because they said 'oh my goodness.'

"For adults it costs 25 cents for the three-shot course. For children, half that. You can make it in a good chemistry laboratory," Dr. Patarroyo said.

"We hope that in something like one to three years, depending on the governmental policies, the whole world will be able to have it."

"It was understandable."

"Once one knows which are the important molecules (in a bacterium or virus) and ... which parts of the molecules are the critical ones, one can synthesise them quickly and mass produce them to use them as vaccines," Dr. Patarroyo said.

"We hope that in the near future we will be able to achieve 80 per cent overall protective efficiency," he said. "We are now producing a batch for one million people which will allow us to cover the areas of greatest transmission of disease."

An attraction for African governments that most need the vaccine is its low production cost and relative ease of manufacture.

"For adults it costs 25 cents for the three-shot course. For children, half that. You can make it in a good chemistry laboratory," Dr. Patarroyo said.

"We hope that in something like one to three years, depending on the governmental policies, the whole world will be able to have it."

SOLUTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. The tiger.
2. A variety of flat-fish.
3. Ireland, The Emerald Isle, is west of Britain.
4. The round which a policeman has to patrol for a specified time.
5. The crank of a wheel, or revolving machine, such as the grinding-stone; a kind of hoisting machine.
6. William Gilbert, Henry Cavendish, Michael Faraday, James Clerk Maxwell, Benjamin Franklin, Galvani, Oersted, Volta, Ampere, Hertz, Lord Kelvin and J.P. Joule are some of the most important.

- a) **THE LADY OF THE LAMP** is Florence Nightingale, who went about the hospital wards during the Crimean War, lamp in hand.
- b) **THE LADY OF THE LAKE** is a person in the Arthurian stories who, among other exploits, gave Arthur his sword; it is also the title of a poem by Sir Walter Scott.
- c) **THE LADY OF SHALLOT** is a poem by Lord Tennyson about a lady who died for love of Sir Lancelot.
- d) **The DARK LADY OF THE SONNETS** is the person, real or fictitious, who is supposed to have inspired Shakespeare to write some of his sonnets.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PUZZLES

1. CANDID.
2. PATHOS.
3. FOIBLE.
4. FRANTIC.
5. IMPLIED.
6. PLANTER.
7. FRUSTRATE.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

WISE QUACKS

By Craig Schulte

ACROSS
1. "Get — (do something)
4. Gutter sound
8. Resort island off Venezuela
13. Adjacent
14. United Patron
19. Orchestra member
20. Two and four hours
22. Latvia's capital
23. Robber's takings
24. Penitentiary
25. Boston
26. Start of statement
27. Content
28. Son's lure
31. Take to court
32. Feedback system, for short

28. —fish
36. Custer
39. Baby food
41. Gain strength from
43. —
45. Bothered
48. Shimer of
50. Reeves
54. 2nd part of statement
58. — and ashed
60. Ingerous
61. Miner
62. —ometer
63. Fix over
65. Most shipshape projections
66. Having certain projects

64. Played hooky
65. Word of appreciation
67. Poor word
68. Hunted down
70. Turner or Koppel
72. Name of bird of prey
73. Hog's meat
75. Resound
76. Perfect
77. Gabor
78. Put together
80. Busy as a bee
84. "God's in mercy on such" (King)

86. —Terry
88. Saleman's item
89. Sire — non
90. Eskimo boat
91. Far from shy
93. Make a murmuring sound
95. Three-legged stand
96. Genetic letters
97. Name used in soups
104. Peter O.—
105. Basketry fiber
107. Perfect
109. Piece of music
111. One being sought
113. Used a slope
115. Violates a rule
117. Small section
118. Eye part
119. Look for
120. RIDE
122. Binds a falcon
130. Use a broom
131. Rottop
132. Pipe joint

Diagramless 19 x 19, By Harold B. Coates

ACROSS
1. Four pieces
2. Confirmed a name
3. Told
8. Spanish mesa
9. Factory
10. Hardwood
11. Sheets or crepe
12. Cartilage
18. Swarm
19. "C" leaves
20. Comedy show
21. Highway
22. Constantly
23. Take-out words
24. Writing tool

25. Spouse
26. Appraise
28. Lichen
29. Woody fiber
31. —tive
37. Doris
18. Arkansas resort
19. Third base
21. —tive
22. Constantly
23. Take-out words
24. Writing tool

42. Only
43. Happy
44. Kitchen gadgets
45. — of grain
47. Enthused
49. Make
50. Unwist
52. —tive
53. —nesses of the seasons
55. "Clear de —"
57. Food scrap



the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The survey measures the high risk activities of adolescents, ranging from dietary practices to smoking, knowledge of how HIV is contracted, sexual activity, and drug abuse, Dr. Escobedo said in a telephone interview.

Overall, 72 per cent of the students who responded to the questionnaire had tried at least one cigarette. Researchers found that 32 per cent were either regular or occasional smokers. Occasional smokers are those who smoked on fewer than five of the past 30 days.

Smoking initiation, defined as smoking one full cigarette and continuing to smoke, peaked at the ages of 13 and 14, then the rate of smoking initiation began declining after age 16, Dr. Escobedo said.

The survey found that 42 per cent of those who began to smoke at 12 or younger became heavy smokers, compared with 29 per cent who smoked their first full cigarette at 13 or older. Researchers analysed data from a 1990 survey of more than 11,000 students grades nine through 12. The data were scientifically designed to be representative of adolescents in all 50 states,

EC restates commitment

(Continued from page 1)

and discussed with the EC envoys Jordanian-European relations. He voiced Jordan's keen interest in expanding cooperation with Europe, Petra said.

Jordan appreciates Europe's understanding of its difficulties and the support Europe extended to the Kingdom to help it cope with the problems resulting from the Gulf crisis, the King said.

In conclusion, King Hussein warned of the disastrous consequences if the peace process were to fail and if "the current situation in the region was allowed to continue and of the results of violence, frustration and desperation," Petra said.

The EC delegation, whose Middle East mission is officially billed as an effort to find out how the Europeans could contribute towards advancing the peace process, agreed that the peace process offered a "window of opportunity" which may not remain open.

"We are playing an active role in the peace process," Mr. Petersen told reporters shortly before departure. "Our visit here to the Middle East is a sign of our commitment to play an active role."

Dr. Abu Jaber described his meeting with the EC delegation as very frank and fruitful.

"We talked as partners in a process..." he said. "A realisation has come about that peace is necessary not just for this region but for the whole world."

Diplomatic sources said the EC delegation was seeking to apply pressure on all parties involved, including Jordan, the Palestinians, the Syrians, the Lebanese and the Israelis, into breaking the deadlock in the peace talks and resuming the negotiations.

In his comments to reporters, Mr. Petersen paid tribute to Jordan's approach to the peace process and said: "We have no doubt that Jordan remains firmly committed to the peace process... Jordan has been the only country which attended all meetings."

"A big problem in these talks and the resumption of the talks has not been from the Jordanian side..." he said, in an apparent reference to the deadlock in the negotiations triggered by Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of over 400 Palestinians.

It was clear that the EC team did seek to apply pressure on the Palestinian side during its meeting with chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Yasser Arafat and Nabil Shaath, a senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"We urge them (the Palestinians) to take part in negotiations," he said. "Both parties to the conflict have reasons not to negotiate, but that is not interesting. What is interesting is that both parties have very good reasons to start talks and that is what we have stressed."

In reply to a pointed question on the spiralling cycle of violence in the occupied territories and Israel's arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people, Mr. Petersen said:

"There should be pressure on all parties in the conflict to come forward with confidence-building measures, we badly need that for the resumption of talks."

Diplomats said the Danish minister deliberately refrained from levelling a criticising finger at Israel, which has sealed off the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip in collective retaliation for attacks on Israelis, lest such criticism overshadow the EC mission, which includes Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

Mr. Petersen, whose country currently occupies the rotating EC presidency, was, however, very specific in ruling out EC involvement in the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks.

"We think the Madrid formula is the right formula" for the peace process, he said in answer to a question. He was referring to the arrangements under which the

Questions remain, prospects unclear

(Continued from page 1)

United States and then Soviet Union — now Russia — act as co-sponsors of the process with direct links to the bilateral phase while European countries and others would participate in the multilateral negotiations on issues such as water, economic cooperation, the environment, refugees and arms control.

"We believe we can be useful... not in the bilateral discussions — that is for the parties directly involved — but in the multilaterals," said Mr. Petersen.

"We can play a very constructive role and we intend to play a very constructive role," added the Danish minister, who was flanked by Belgium's Minister of External Trade and European Affairs Robert Urbain, and Mark Elliot, a deputy under-secretary at Britain's Foreign Office, European Commission for external Relations Hans van den Broeck of the Netherlands and Dr. Abo Jaber.

Mr. Petersen noted that the EC chairs the multilateral working group on economic cooperation and is also involved in other phases of the regional negotiations.

Dr. Abu Jaber described his meeting with the EC delegation as very frank and fruitful.

"We talked as partners in a process..." he said. "A realisation has come about that peace is necessary not just for this region but for the whole world."

The Europeans understand that it is in their interest that the peace process continues and we reach a solution. We are not seeking negotiations for negotiations sake, but we aim to see that a just and comprehensive and lasting peace based on international legitimacy, on the return of land for peace, on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338."

In their talks with the EC delegation, the Palestinians called on the community to use its clout to pressure Israel into making the necessary moves for the success of the peace process.

"The United States has stronger relations with Israel, but European countries do have considerable influence," Dr. Abdul Shafi told reporters after the one-hour meeting. "It is high time they used their leverage, such as their economic power."

"Europeans are historically more rooted to the area and have more 'experience' than the Americans," he said.

"The Americans are asking everyone to stand aside but my understanding is that the present administration is not against European involvement" in the peace process, said the Gaza peace-negotiator.

"But they will have a lesser role. If they express their willingness to be a co-sponsor, the Americans will oppose them," he said.

The Arab side, particularly the Palestinians, want "greater American and European involvement... but we want more than verbal statements," said Dr. Abdul Shafi.

Palestinian sources described the meeting with EC delegation as disappointing.

"They made a separation between the expellee issue and the peace process," said one source. "Instead of focusing on Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinians, they suggested that Palestinian terrorism was responsible for the escalation of tension in the occupied territories."

"In short, they were talking the language of the Americans," added the source.

The EC delegation was expected to include Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes and British Foreign Minister Douglas Hogg. EC sources said Mr. Claes, who is also vice-president of his country, has to stay back because of a government crisis. There was no explanation to why Mr. Hogg was not in the delegation.

Bahjat Abdel-Hadi Est.

We are pleased to announce the following services:

- * Virus Extermination & Immunization Services
 - * Latest Software in : Business Statistics Utilities Educational Entertainment Word Processing Graphics ...etc.
 - * Windows & Under windows Software : Publishing Graphics Drawing Games ...etc.
 - * Computer Accessories
 - * Training - Private Tutoring - Translation
- Gardens st (Wadi Al Tall st)-Al Youbel Building Just nearby Al Youbel Circle (AlWaha Circle). 3rd Floor - Office # 304
- For More Information Please Call : Tel : 666330 / Fax : 666329

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-to-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS

TEL: 604676 601696 P.O.BOX 7806 AMMAN

CROWN INTL EST.
Packing, shipping Forwarding, storage worldwide Removals Air, Sea and Land

TEL: 66 40 90 FAX: 69 08 52 POST: 92 64 87 Amman-Jordan

6 Branches at YOUR Service Mecca Street, behind Pizza Hut, phone 821656, Fax 822163

Shameisani - Opp. Grindlays, Bank. Phone: 604042 Sweifieh tel: 103891

Take away is available

Wadi Salqa Road near Philadelphia Hotel

Tel: 661922, Amman

Once Tasted Always Loved

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.

6:30 - Midnight

Tel. 638968

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyyah Girls School

Take away is available

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.

7:00 - Midnight

Tel. 667171 ext. 223

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times Call tel:

667171 ext. 223

House holds last session of its term

(Continued from page 1)

ing relations between the U.S. and Jordan will ultimately have on the electorate here.

While it is true that the next elections will not be won or lost on candidates' economic programmes (since most do not have any) so will they not be heavily determined by the emergence recently of some 15 political parties. These are parties, mostly of the centre, with some strong tribal and family affiliations, which are too new and too small to stand up to the political ideology of Islam or elevate their own agenda to compete with an issue as big and overwhelming as the peace process.

The best and nearest indication of how the King will act will be his decision, which is expected soon, on whether his Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker will head Jordan's government supervising new elections. It was only under his stewardship that the "free and fair" elections of 1989 took place, and people are sceptical about any successor's ability to be the prime minister of all Jordanians and political parties.

The other two strong candidates for premiership, in the event that Sharif Zeid leaves, are First Deputy Prime Minister Thoouqan Al Hindawi and former Deputy Prime Minister Salem Massa'deh. Mr. Hindawi, who is a stronger candidate, heads the conservative 16-member Constitution Bloc in the Lower House, while Mr. Massa'deh does not have a parliamentary base.

There is opposition hardly mentioned in the media, to either candidate heading a transitional government to supervise the elections. But it is not only the choice of a new government that is in the balance here. A new law for elections and a host of other political considerations have to be dealt with before a final decision is made by the King.

There is opposition hardly mentioned in the media, to either candidate heading a transitional government to supervise the elections. But it is not only the choice of a new government that is in the balance here. A new law for elections and a host of other political considerations have to be dealt with before a final decision is made by the King.

There are no differences between the Muslim Brotherhood and Mr. Shbeihat. The Brotherhood had no confrontation with Mr. Shbeihat during the secret session, said Brotherhood spokesman Ibrahim Khreisat (Salt).

"There was complete support for the rights of the deputy Shbeihat," he said.

A vehicle belonging to an unnamed aid agency was later stolen near Afgoor. No further details were available and it was unclear whether the driver was inside the vehicle.

Pakistani troops shot and wounded two Somalis Tuesday after they refused to stop at a checkpoint in the capital, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Major Ken Roberts told reporters the two men "tried to run the checkpoint." They were taken to a Swedish military hospital for treatment.

Major Ken Roberts told reporters the two men "tried to run the checkpoint." They were taken to a Swedish military hospital for treatment.

Mr. Balladur ordered a 20 per cent cut in his office's entertainment budget and told ministers to reduce spending in their offices by 10 per cent.

He barred ministers from changing their chauffeur-driven limousines and ordered them to use regular commercial airlines whenever possible.

Mr. Balladur asked Simone Veil, the new health, social and urban affairs minister, to come up with urgent job measures and

among deputies.

The closed session reportedly discussed the government's policy on the Middle East peace process and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the delay in the completion of the Amman-Jerash highway and the Shabah Al Nafeer Al Islami case.

The two papers said that Deputy Leith Shbeihat, who along with Sheikh Ya'qoub Qarash, was convicted of subversion against the state in November last year but was pardoned under a royal amnesty a week later, had an argument with Muslim Brotherhood lawmakers during the secret session.

They quoted sources as saying that Brotherhood deputies launched a "strong attack" against Mr. Shbeihat after he accused the House of not "doing enough" in support of Sheikh Qarash and himself during trial of the case at a military court.

Jerash Deputy Hussein Mjalli questioned the minister's assertion that the highway, on which work started in March 1989, will be accessible to motorists on July 1 on the grounds that the amount of work left was substantial.

Mr. Shbeihat, however, said the projected date for completing the highway is based on scientific assessment of work left and resources available to complete it.

Ending the meeting with a statement asserting its stand on a number of "major issues," the House expressed support for the Palestinian people's struggle against occupation and called for the lifting of sanctions against Iraq and Libya (see story on page 3).

Before declaring the end of the last session of the House, Speaker Abdul Laaf Arabiati highlighted what he called the "unprecedented" achievement of the 11th Parliament and thanked deputies for their efforts.

"I thank you for the efforts that you exerted and the great achievements you attained in implementing the constitutional duties of the House," Mr. Arabiati told the deputies.

The Brotherhood bloc at the House also denied that its members had any confrontation with Mr. Shbeihat during the secret session, asserting that the Brotherhood movement had "taken a principled stand in defence of freedoms and individual rights during the crisis that deputies Shbeihat and Qarash went through."

"There are no differences between the Muslim Brotherhood and Mr. Shbeihat. The Brotherhood had no confrontation with Mr. Shbeihat during the secret session, said Brotherhood spokesman Ibrahim Khreisat (Salt).

A Royal decree announcing the end of the fourth and last ordinary session of Parliament was read at the beginning of the session.

Balladur announces budget cuts

(Continued from page 1)

asked Interior Minister Charles Pasqua to look at immigration and crime, also pressing concerns among French voters.

Mr. Balladur won praise from the press for his smooth handling of the transfer of power and swift selection of a moderate, balanced cabinet.

Some of the ministers are little known by the public and police outside the prime minister's office in some cases had to consult pictures before admitting cabinet members to the meeting.

Mr. Balladur asked Simone

Veil, the new health, social and urban affairs minister, to come up with urgent job measures and

for further details, please call:

Abdoun Real Estate

Tel.: 810605/810309

Fax: 810520

4 RENT & SALE

- Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale, furnished or unfurnished.

- Also many plots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call:

AVIS

699-420

We try harder.

SAS

66193

Amman - Tel: 66193 - Fax: 60234

Telex: 23688 DARTOL JO

Ideal Residence For

Expatriates and

Businessmen

The First Class Hotel in

Amman that has a

Kitchenette in every room...!

"Satellite T.V. Reception"

DAROTEL

66193

National Rally sets off Thursday evening

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Preparations for the season's second auto sports event — the Lanter National Rally — have been completed, and competitors will set-off from the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) headquarters Thursday evening at 6 p.m.

Twenty-nine auto sports enthusiasts, including British Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Evers, will be competing in the first of the season's three national rallies, whose 100 kilometres of special stages will form the first leg of the Jordan International Rally due to held May 27-28.

"This rally will provide an excellent opportunity for drivers and officials to prepare for the Jordan International Rally," clerk of the course, Mr. Ziyad Louza, told the Jordan Times.

Joint clerks of the course Mr. Louza and Mr. Hassan Al-eidin said the rally will have 11 special stages which provide an interesting challenge for many new entrants and seasoned competitors who will be trying out their new cars.

"It is a very positive sign to see many drivers buying new and better cars. Therefore we hope to have an interesting season and tougher competition in

the future," RACJ Director Derek ledger told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

Competition in the rally is expected to be quite challenging with powerful cars, such as 1992 champion Marwan Abu Hamad and Bashir Bustami's Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4 and second placed Reimon Fleife's Lancia Delta HF Integrale 16V, heading the list of top competitors.

The rally, whose route will be entirely on asphalt roads, will cover 350 kilometres in the north of the country.

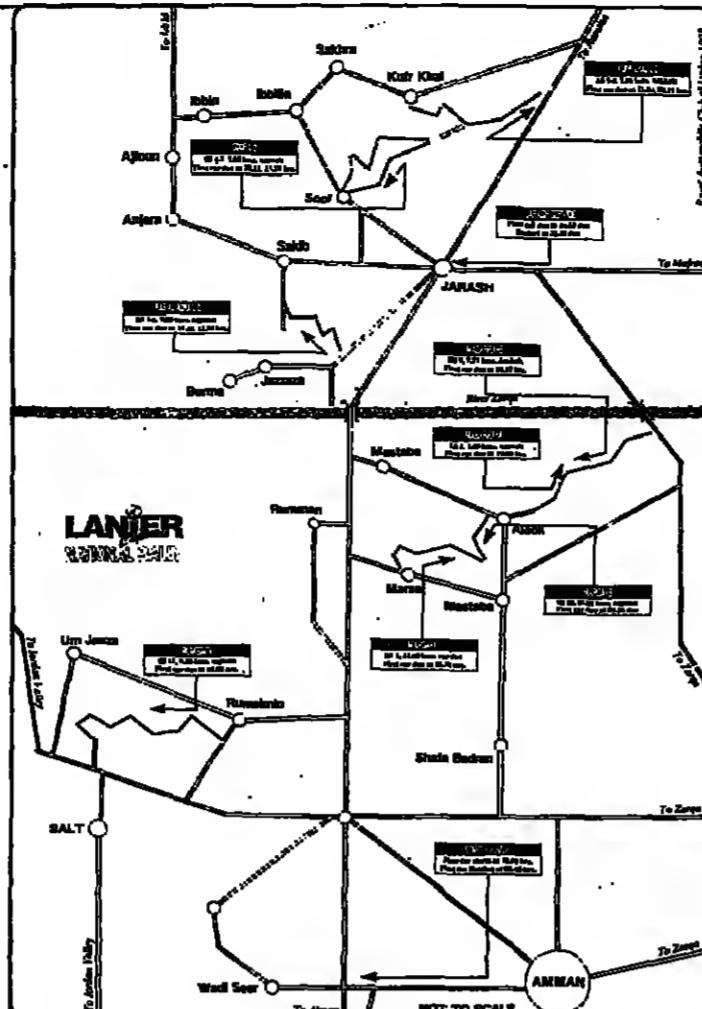
Competitors will set off from RACJ in Amman, heading towards the first special stage at Marsa' just past Mastaba and Shafa Badran, where the first car is due to arrive at 6:38. Cars will then head to special stage 2 at Massara east of the village of Alook.

The third special stage is at Ras Al Aqra'. Competitors then head northwards passing Sakheh and Soof villages to enter special stage 4 at Soof.

The route then passes through Ibbilin and Sakhra villages before entering the fifth special stage at Kufri Khal.

The first car is due at the Jerash service regrouping at 9:22 p.m.

The second leg of the rally begins from the Jerash Resthouse at 10:30 p.m. Competitors will pass through the remaining six special stages going



The National Rally's 350 kilometre route

through Ras Al Aqra', Soof, Kufri Khal, Massara, Marsa' and Rumeineen before the first car is due at the finish point at RACJ headquarters in Amman around 2:45 a.m. Friday. The last car is due around 4 a.m.

ENTRY LIST

NO.	DRIVER	CO-DRIVER	CAR
1	Marwan Abu Hamad	Khalid Zahrani	Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4
2	Ramzi Fleife	Fawzi Sharqieh	Lucia Delta HF Integrale 16V
3	Bashir Bustami	Malek Hossaini	Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4
4	Ma'moun Abu Samra	Khalid Al Naher	Toyota Corolla GT
5	Abu Al-Khalil	Raed Wahab	Nissan 200 RS
6	Ismail Khader	Leith Bader	Nissan 200 SPL
7	Saeed Saad	Khalid Al Ghazal	Datsun Chariote 4x4
8	Ahmed Al Dacoed	Mohammed Mirelli	Ford Fiesta XR2
9	Amjad Farah	Faisal Sadeq	Toyota Corolla GT
10	Majid Al Jallad	Saeed Al Jallad	Toyota Corolla GT
11	Mohamed Al Qirini	Arman Al Husein	Ford Fiesta XR2
12	George Shamsan	Abdul Shafeek	Seat Ibiza 1.3
13	Tarek Tabatabai	Abdul Haddad	Akio 2000 S
14	Emad Jbara	Saleh Subhi	Toyota Corolla GT
15	Faisal Jbara	Abdul Subhi	Toyota Corolla GT
16		Ammar Abu Namous	Toyota Corolla GT

NO.	DRIVER	CO-DRIVER	CAR
17	Mohammed Al Dacoed	Abdullah Abu Ottman	Ford Fiesta XR2 i
18	Saleh Al Babi	Nidal Al Kurei	Toyota Corolla GT
19	Ammar Hijazi	Abdul Kader Alza	Fiat Uno Turbo ie
20	Heba Abu Samra	Ghazi Al Khaderi	Toyota Corolla GT
21	Patrick Evers	Mark Le Goy	Ford Fiesta XR2 i
22	Abdul Ehsan Muntasir	Messala Al Dabas	Range Rover
23	Angad Shamsiyah	Tareq Samakhi	Range Rover
24	Saeed Al Hadi	Abdul Rahman Shamsiyah	Opel Monza 1.8 E
25	Mohammed Mirelli	Mahmoud Shamsiyah	Datsun 180 B
26	Edward Krikaz	Khalid Hossaini	Fiat 131 Super Mirafiori
27	Faisal Bustami	Broshin Fawzi	Datsun 180 K GT
28	Faisal Al Shamsi	Ramzi Mousa	Toyota Corolla ST
29	Asif Al Shamsi	Enad Jbara	Toyota Land Cruiser
30	Mahmoud Hossaini	Fahd Bahl Hossaini	

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Narozhilenko banned for 4 years

LONDON (R) — World women's 100 metres hurdles champion Lyudmila Narozhilenko of Russia has been banned for four years following a positive dope test for an anabolic steroid. International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) spokeswoman Jayne Pearce said Wednesday that two urine samples from an indoor meeting in Lievin, France, February 13 had contained an anabolic steroid. Narozhilenko, 27, twice lowered the world indoor 60-metres record this month in Seville, Spain. Pearce confirmed that both samples from Lievin had contained a steroid and said the Russian was now banned for four years pending a hearing.

Courier, Chang through in Osaka tournament

OSAKA (R) — World No. 1 Jim Courier easily won his opening match in the \$500,000 Salem Open Wednesday and said a recent layoff had done him world of good. The American top seed downed Italian Stefano Pescosolido 6-2 6-2 in the first round on a hard court in cool, mild weather. His former Davis Cup colleague, second seed Michael Chang, had a more difficult task, surviving some scary moments against precocious German David Prinosil before winning 6-1 4-6 6-4.

Suns beat Chicago in showdown of NBA powerhouses

CHICAGO (R) — In a showdown of the NBA's top two teams, the visiting Phoenix Suns edged the Chicago Bulls 113-109 behind the All-Star play of Kevin Johnson Tuesday. Johnson collected 23 points and dished out 16 assists as the Pacific Division leading Suns won their fourth consecutive game to push their league

leading record to 53-15. Charles Barkley added 26 points and seven rebounds. The Bulls, despite 44 points from Michael Jordan, had their six-game winning streak snapped. In Detroit, the Orlando Magic beat the Pistons for the first time in the team's history 105-91.

Graf, Sabatini advance in Family Circle tourney

HILTON HEAD (R) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf struggled while third seed Gabriela Sabatini won with ease in the second round of the \$750,000 Family Circle Cup women's tennis tournament Tuesday. Graf, ranked number two in the world, laboured through a 6-4 6-4 decision over Federica Bonsignori of Italy. Sabatini, the two-time defending champion who is ranked fifth, posted a quick 6-0 6-0 victory over American Beverly Bowes. "I am here to win this tournament," Sabatini. "I love this tournament and I had some very good results here."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Roma eliminate AC Milan, advance to finals

MILAN (AP) — As Roma survived a penalty kick with two minutes left and allowed a single goal to the league champions before eliminating AC Milan Tuesday in the second-league match of the Italian Cup semifinals.

The Roman team qualified for the tournament finals in June on a 2-1 aggregate score, capitalizing on a 2-0 victory at home in the first leg two weeks ago.

Roma will play the winner of Wednesday's semifinal in Turin between cross-town rivals Juventus and Torino.

Milan, which was also eliminated

last year, attacked throughout during the match at San Siro Stadium. But its steady pressure produced only a single goal.

Midfielder Stefano Eranio kicked in from a very angled position, following a corner kick, in the 37th minute.

Dutch star Ruud Gullit, French striker Jean Pierre Papin and young Italian midfielder Demetrio Albertini had three clear scoring chances in the second half, but were stopped by Roma's goalie Giovanni Cervone.

Cervone became the match hero in the 88th when he dived and stopped a penalty kicked by Papin.

Scudamore in search of Aintree glory

LONDON (R) — Champion jump jockey Peter Scudamore is set to desert the all-powerful Martin Pipe stable in search of his first Grand National winner Saturday.

The Aintree spectacular is one of the few major races to have escaped the highly successful Scudamore and while champion trainer Pipe may saddle as many as seven of the 40 runners, none is a leading fancy.

Scudamore may therefore team up with second favourite Captain Dibble, trained by the jockey's business partner, Nigel Twiston-Davies.

Captain Dibble: won last year's Scottish Grand National with Scudamore's 4½ mile (7.2 km) test with its 30 famous fences should pose no stamina problems.

The gelding has been backed down to 8-1 from 10-1 since it emerged that Scudamore might be his partner.

Scudamore said: "I want to ride the course Thursday. It's a choice between Captain Dibble, Chatham and Riverside Boy."

Chatham (10-1) is one of the Pipe stable's most talented performers on his day, but ran a poor 11th in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 1, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 2, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a fine Friday to wind-up various practical matters that are facing you and to accomplish them efficiently while at the same time, working every possible angle to eliminate whatever doesn't suit you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) All sorts of difficult situations could arise at your residence if you bring up any situation that any member of the family does not like.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a day to carry through with whatever you have mapped out for yourself and to take no risks where your credit, reputation are concerned.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have the urge to be off and away to new interests and activities but you would find opposition at most every point so postpone the unimportant.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are eager to find a more satisfactory course of action under which to handle your practical affairs but you could get very wrong advice at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Associates could easily become opponents now if you take any liberties or criticise outsiders in anyway so watch every word carefully.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You feel you have so many burdens you can't get out from under all of them but taking them in your stride one by one makes this possible.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to be careful and diplomatic in any correspondence or communications you have today or what you say could lead to an estrangement quickly.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You would be wise to put your attention to practical details other than those connected with money or possessions so take the unimportant.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You feel a considerable discontent within and it is day to make any important decisions or go to your personal wishes strongly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A purposeful and powerful friend has some ideas for you that do not fit your present situation so avoid or just take them under advisement.

22) This is the day to take your talents or special abilities to anyone who has the influence to help you to market them but don't let them lie fallow for the moment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) All sorts of difficult situations could arise at your residence if you bring up any situation that any member of the family does not like.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a day to carry through with whatever you have mapped out for yourself and to take no risks where your credit, reputation are concerned.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have the urge to be off and away to new interests and activities but you would find opposition at most every point so postpone the unimportant.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are eager to find a more satisfactory course of action under which to handle your practical affairs but you could get very wrong advice at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Associates could easily become opponents now if you take any liberties or criticise outsiders in anyway so watch every word carefully.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You feel you have so many burdens you can't get out from under all of them but taking them in your stride one by one makes this possible.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go with a partner and a creative person where is pleasant surroundings you can discuss a project that is of importance, about which you need help.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have much effort to put into making whatever your job is pay off better and one who wants for a playmate could get in the way of accomplishment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Go with all of your charm to get those you have recently met to go along with the special aptitude necessary to make such a big success.

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	10.3.93	10.3.93		
Sterling Pound	1.4930	1.4938			
Deutsche Mark	1.6170	1.6188			
Swiss Franc	1.4948	1.4953			
French Franc	5.4895	5.4853			
Japanese Yen	116.60	115.35			
European Currency Unit	1.1985	1.1978			
USD Per STG Kuwait Opening 10.30 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 31.3.93					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	3.01	3.25	3.18	3.50	
Sterling Pound	5.78	5.78	5.72	5.72	
Deutsche Mark	8.20	7.83	7.43	6.78	
Swiss Franc	5.15	5.87	4.68	4.31	
French Franc	10.12	9.62	9.06	8.12	
Japanese Yen	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.28	
European Currency Unit	9.37	9.00	8.50	7.94	
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals Date: 31.3.93					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²
Gold	337.25	6.50	Silver	1.88	.090
21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 31.3.93					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.686	0.688			
Sterling Pound	1.0237	1.0288			
Deutsche Mark	0.4730	0.4255			
Swiss Franc	0.4584	0.4607			
French Franc	0.1248	0.1254			
Japanese Yen	0.5933	0.5963			
Dutch Guilder	0.3766	0.3785			
Swedish Krona	0.8910	0.8950			
Italian Lira	0.0428	0.0430			
Belgian Franc	0.02057	0.02067			
Per 100					
Other Currencies Date: 31.3.93					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.8030	1.8040			
Lebanese Lira	0.0370	0.0420			
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1840			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2450	2.2800			
Qatari Riyal	0.1862	0.1880			
Egyptian Pound	0.1940	0.2160			
Omani Riyal	1.7570	1.7800			
UAE Dirham	0.1862	0.1880			
Greek Drachma	0.3060	0.3150			
Cypriot Pound	1.3990	1.4225			
Per 100					
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	30.3.93	Close	29.3.93	Close	
All-Share	196.22		196.05		
Banking Sector	135.76		135.70		
Insurance Sector	213.69		213.05		
Industry Sector	279.42		264.20		
Services Sector	265.12		279.24		
December 31, 1992 = 100					

FOR RENT IN SHMEISANI

2 super deluxe flats, 300 sq. m. each 1st & 2nd floors. 3 bedrooms (one master) 3 balconies. Spacious living, sitting, dining and kitchen. Independent heating and garage.

For details, please call owner tel. 605480

DUTY UNPAID

CAR FOR SALE "Gulf Number Plate"

Honda Accord EX, model 1990, dark hazel, four cylinders, stick shift, five-speed, electric windows, central lock, air-conditioned.

Please call tel. 650729

Apartment For Rent

Well furnished 2-bedroom apartment. Close to and overlooking U.S. Embassy with tel & T.V.. Phone Zakaria at 672842 or 825347.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2568/73	Canadian dollar
	1.6160/70	Deutschmarks
	1.8190/200	Dutch guilders
	1.4945/55	Swiss francs
	33.23/27	Belgian francs
	5.4770/820	French francs
	1603/1606	Italian lire
	114.95/116.00	Japanese yen
	7.7400/500	Swedish crowns
	6.8650/750	Norwegian crowns
	6.1925/2025	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4955/65	
One ounce of gold	\$337.30/337.80	

Kuwait unveils foreign investment reshuffle

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Tuesday it was reshuffling its scandal-hit overseas investment empire to bring the London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) under the direct control of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

Finance Minister Nasser Abdulla Al Rodhan said he had proposed KIO President Ali Al Badri replace current KIA Chairman Abdulla Al Gabandi as part of widely expected reforms.

Sheikh Gabandi told Reuters last week his replacement had been decided by the cabinet and would be made official when it was published in the government gazette, a move that is expected in the next few days.

"The new structure in the KIO of London and KIA will be under one authority which is the authority of the chairman of KIA," Sheikh Rodhan told reporters at the weekly session of parliament.

"This step will tighten control from the point of view of financial and administrative oversight," he said.

Economists say the reforms' overall aim is to maximise returns on a multi-billion-dollar invest-

ment empire that has shrunk in recent years because of Gulf war costs and alleged mismanagement.

The KIO, worth more than \$100 billion at its height before the Gulf war, has been hit by scandals and rumour and is subject to increasingly close parliamentary scrutiny. Economists put its current worth at anything between \$15 to \$40 billion.

KIO was set up in 1964 originally as a property company, but its role expanded rapidly on the back of the 1970s oil price rises to include responsibility for investment in the major industrialised countries.

The KIA was set up in 1984 to monitor the performance of the KIO and other investment institutions, but some critics said the move did not bring KIO under sufficient control.

The current management of KIO in January sued seven former executives of KIO and KIO's Spanish holding company, Grupo Torras, saying the seven had committed fraud and other crimes that led to losses of more than \$1 billion.

Jordan Times, Al Ra'i boost pre-tax profit to JD 1.5 million

By Samir Sharif

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Foundation (JPF) posted a record JD 6,450,978 gross earnings in the year 1992, registering a 41 per cent increase over the figure for 1991, JPF final accounts showed.

According to the seventh annual report of the company, which publishes Jordan's Al Ra'i Arabic daily and the Jordan Times, advertisements accounted for 58 per cent (JD 3,747,247) of the earnings, sales, accounted for 28 per cent (JD 1,812,825), the commercial printing section contributed 12 per cent (JD 798,069) and the rest was other miscellaneous income.

Expenditures, amounting to JD 4,950,529, were mostly costs of paper and other printing materials, representing 55 per cent of the total. Wages and salaries raised the cost by 27 per cent with the remaining 18 per cent of the expenditures absorbing administrative and general expenses, depreciation and write-off of copyright.

The expenditures were 35 per cent above the 1991 total, but according to the report, that was mainly due to writing-off in one lump sum the remaining copyright value of JD 244,000 to ease the financial burden, anticipated in coming years, from modernisation schemes which are now being started.

Despite the high expenditures, JPF managed to bring up its pre-tax profit by 67 per cent over the 1991 figure to JD 1,500,449. After allocating JD 629,688 for income tax, the net profit stood at JD 863,411 compared to JD 541,376 at the end of 1991.

As such, JPF will distribute JD 250,000 in dividends for 1992, an amount which translates into a 25 per cent rate, the same as in 1991. There was no allocation, however, to the obligatory reserve because the JD 1 million total in this section has reached the legal requirement of being equal to the authorised and paid-up capital.

The rest of the profit available for distribution was channelled to the voluntary reserve and to a special reserve. The voluntary reserve was beefed up by JD 150,045 to become JD 495,300 while the special reserve was started with JD 400,000.

The special reserve is described in the report as the service to finance new equipment and additional building facilities, and as being a consolidation to the company's financial standing.

The expansion schemes, which have become necessary to cope with the high volume of advertisements and to meet market demands for the best technical production means, were in fact started in 1992 when a new camera of highest capacity and most modern technology was purchased for newspaper photography.

Moreover, a new unit was added to the printing machine which, as a result, was upgraded to print 32 pages with four colours on the first two and the last two pages.

Despite the modernisations, JPF had to solve the problem of higher demand for newspapers which could not be met because of the low speed of the printing machine.

The problem was exacerbated by a huge inflow of advertisements and JPF had no choice but to use a reserve printing machine to print Al Ra'i in two parts at the risk of not being able to publish the daily if a technical failure occurred at any of them.

To overcome this dilemma, JPA is currently preparing the ground for building expansion to house the new printing machine which has been ordered late last year.

The new printing machine to be installed this summer, will have a 60,000-copies-per-hour capacity and can print very efficiently up to 64 coloured pages in a much cleaner and clearer form.

To finance the schemes, JPF's general assembly last September authorised the board of directors to borrow in excess of the company's capital, i.e. JD 1 million.

The JPF financial standing may not warrant high borrowing in view of the following:

a) Current assets at the end of last year stood at JD 2,578,122, a 19 per cent increase over the 1991 figure.

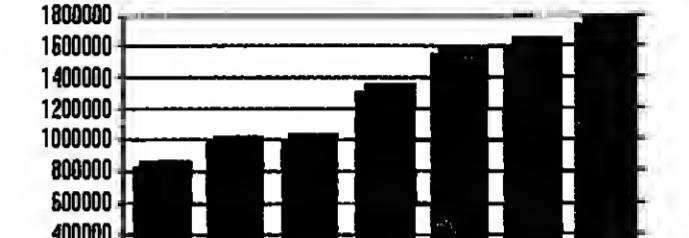
b) Current liabilities at the end of 1992 decreased by 23 per cent to become JD 1,245,452; taking into consideration the settlement of JD 626,939 of short term bills and an increase in allocation for income tax by 83 per cent over the 1991 figure.

c) An increase in the working capital to JD 1,332,670.

d) An increase in the value of fixed assets by JD 26,571 after deducting JD 781,63 of accumulated depreciation.



Two charts showing advertising volume from 1986-1992



Refugees reported killed in Srebrenica relief convoy panic

TUZLA, Bosnia (R) — Several People were crushed to death in a panic stricken stampede to board U.N. trucks which evacuated about 2,000 refugees from the Muslim town of Srebrenica Wednesday, U.N. military observers said.

Lieutenant Commander Tom Erikson, a U.N. military observer in Tuzla, said colleagues in Srebrenica reported by radio that some people were crushed to death but did not give a precise casualty toll.

The fatalities were not confirmed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which sent the convoy, or the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia.

Isamu Nakamitsu, a UNHCR official in Tuzla, told reporters: "All we know is that it was out of control. Thousands of people rushed for the trucks. Apparently they were even fighting with each other which shows their state of desperation."

Another official of the aid agency, Lyndall Sachs, said in Belgrade: "The level of panic is

at an all time high. The local community has lost all confidence in the ability of the United Nations to protect them."

About 2,000 people were reported to have forced their way on to 14 trucks which were heading across Serb-held territory towards the safe Muslim town of Tuzla 100 kilometres away.

Muslim authorities said six people died during a similar evacuation Monday when refugees of all ages were so tightly packed on open trucks that they were forced to travel standing up.

Their journey lasted 18 hours because of delays at Serb checkpoints.

Mr. Nakamitsu said the UNHCR estimated there were between 30,000 and 40,000 Muslims still trapped in Srebrenica by Serb forces who blockaded the east Bosnian mountain settlement when Bosnia's civil war began a year ago.

"Our goal is to reduce the population and reduce the state of panic," she added. "These people are extremely malnourished and not really fit to travel."

"I wish we could control them but we can't. They are in a tremendously exhausted state. It's very sad."

Lieutenant Colonel Tricia Purves, a British U.N. officer, warned that "this is going to happen every time we send trucks in to evacuate people because so many are desperate to get out."

Aid convoys to Srebrenica are allowed to take only light military escorts which lack the resources to embark refugees in an orderly way.

"How many troops would you need?" Col. Purves said. "I don't think a brigade could control people this desperate."

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin said Tuesday the Bosnian Serbs face a tough decision on whether to accept an international peace plan for the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"They have to make some very difficult decisions, they have to make some very difficult choices, so it is not going to be easy," Mr. Churkin said after meeting Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Churkin arrived in Belgrade Tuesday attempting to break the deadlock in international peace talks on Bosnia's 11-month civil war, which developed after the Bosnian Serbs refused to sign maps dividing the republic into 10 provinces.

Bosnian Muslims and Croats have signed the maps and the peace plan drawn up by international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

"There is some work that remains to be done. The final steps are the most difficult ones," Mr. Churkin said after what he said were "extremely worthwhile" talks with Mr. Milosevic.

Mr. Churkin said some new elements emerged in his talks with Mr. Milosevic that were "worthwhile pursuing."

He would see how effective they were only after meeting Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in his headquarters in Pale, near Sarajevo.

The United States has objected to European Community (EC) efforts to endorse an international peace plan on Bosnia as part of a proposed resolution tightening



Muslim Bosnian refugees from Srebrenica dispute for a piece of bread on a U.N. truck on their way to Tuzla (AFP photo)

sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Diplomats said Washington started EC members of the Security Council, Britain, France and Spain, during discussions Tuesday on the draft designed to pressure Yugoslavia to force Bosnian Serbs to sign the peace proposal.

Instead of endorsing the plan drawn up by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen and signed by Bosnia's Croats and Serbs, Washington

sought only to commend the mediators' efforts.

All 15 Council members are scheduled to confer behind closed doors Wednesday on the Vance-Owen plan as well as enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia and possibly the sanctions proposals. But no dates were set for any votes.

Secretary-General Boutros Gali has urged the Council to endorse the peace plan before

taking any punitive action against the Serbs.

Some envoys said the United States did not want to commit itself to the plan should fighting break out again and Bosnian Muslims withdraw their signatures.

But others said the Clinton administration, which criticised the plan before changes were made in favour of the Bosnian Muslims, remained divided on its approach towards Bosnia.

'Russia cannot guarantee safety of nuclear submarines'

LONDON (AP) — Russia can no longer guarantee the safe operation of its nuclear submarines because of a critical shortage of storage facilities for radioactive waste, according to a Russian government report released Tuesday by Greenpeace.

The report, commissioned by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said the Russian Navy is still dumping radioactive waste at sea and will continue to do so until land-based storage facilities are built. They are not scheduled to start operating until 1997.

The former Soviet Union dumped 18 reactors and 13,150 containers of radioactive waste in the Kara and Barents Seas in northern Russia and the Sea of Japan between 1966 and 1991, the report said. At least six reactors contained radioactive fuel.

"Russia is staring at a radioactive waste nightmare, the deadly legacy of the cold war," said John Sprang, Greenpeace's campaigner for nuclear-free seas.

The report said Russia's Northern and Pacific Fleets have stored the equivalent of 140 reactor cores from nuclear submarines, mainly on floating vessels, while waiting for permanent storage space on land.

The navy normally refuels 20 submarine reactors every year, but has storage space only for spent fuel from three reactors, it said.

"It is evident there is a critical situation (which prevents) further safe operation of the undersea fleet," the report concluded.

Mr. Sprang explained that, if the spent nuclear fuel can't be stored safely, "you can't take it out of the reactor."

"That means operational submarines cannot be refuelled. So, in effect, the Russian Navy is slowly grinding to a halt," he said.

At least 75 per cent of former Soviet submarines that have been decommissioned still contain their spent nuclear fuel, the report said. Another 300 former Soviet reactors are to be decommissioned by the year 2000.

"They're using decommissioned reactors as a fuel store, which is not safe. In time, the hull of the submarine will deteriorate, and can sink," Mr. Sprang said.

Russia now has 228 operational nuclear submarines with 394 reactors and seven nuclear icebreakers with 13 reactors, the report said.

Every year, operating these nuclear-powered vessels produces up to 20,000 cubic metres of liquid radioactive waste and up to 6,000 cubic metres of solid radioactive waste, it said.

Mr. Yeltsin set up a commission to prepare the report three days after the Greenpeace ship *Sole* was released by Russian authorities. It had been seized while attempting to document the 1981 sinking of a damaged nuclear submarine, with two reactors, off Novaya Zemlya in the Arctic. The sinking is confirmed by the commission's report.

The commission, headed by Alexei Yablokov, the presidential special adviser on environment and health, will submit the report to the 77-nation London Dumping Convention, which regulates the dumping of nuclear and toxic waste at sea.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Africa gets tough with Transkei

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African soldiers and police virtually sealed off Transkei Tuesday night after Pretoria announced a get-tough campaign against the homeland it accuses of harbouring black guerrillas. All people and vehicles entering the white-ruled republic from the homeland would be searched at road blocks and border patrols would be intensified. The government said the action was to protect South Africans from further "cross-border" attacks by black guerrillas it said were using Transkei as a springboard. The South African police and defence force will, with immediate effect, man border points on all roads leading to Transkei, the government said in a statement. South African television showed military convoys packed with heavily armed troops moving towards Transkei.

Tajikistan declares state of emergency

MOSCOW (R) — Tajikistan declared a curfew and state of emergency Wednesday in the south of the Central Asian republic a day after two powerful warlords killed each other, ITAR-TASS News Agency said. The moves were designed to prevent violence as troops buried their warlord leaders in Kurgan-Tyube, an area near the southern border with Afghanistan, it said. The warlords, Sangak Safarov and Faizul Salov, were former leaders of the Popular Front which installed Tajikistan's pro-Communist government after a war with Islamic rebels. They killed each other early Tuesday in a shoot-out which may have left on to 15 others dead. Their forces, comprising about 600 men backed by armoured cars and tanks, have so far refrained from retaliation. The Tajik government declared Wednesday a day of national mourning for the funerals. TASS said.

Security Council discusses Macedonia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council was unable to decide what to call the country of Macedonia, despite months-long efforts at a compromise. Ambassador Terence O'Brien of New Zealand said one problem was Greece's demand that Macedonia's flag not fly at the United Nations. He said he had originally hoped the Council would conclude its consideration of the matter by the time his term as president ends, Wednesday, but now considers that "not likely." "We are close, but not quite close enough," Mr. O'Brien told reporters. The latest twist came when Greece said Tuesday it was ready to go along with a United Nations compromise plan to accept Macedonia as a member, but only if the republic's flag does not fly outside the headquarters of the world body. U.N. spokesman Joe Sills, responding to a question from the AP, said the flag issue would have to be decided by the Council, with possible input from the U.N. legal office. Greece is opposed to the flag because it includes the Star of Vergina. The 16-rayed star was the emblem of the Macedonian dynasty of the 4th century B.C. Greek warrior-king Alexander the Great. The republic adopted the flag last year.

Bonn cracks down on refugee tide

NUREMBERG, Germany (R) — Germany will start cracking down on a rising tide of foreign refugees when new rules take effect Thursday streamlining the process of judging tens of thousands of applications for political asylum. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government hopes to discourage what it calls economic refugees from Eastern Europe and the Third World by slashing the time it takes to reject most asylum seekers from a year to three months or less. As of April 1, a new computer system with the ironic acronym easy will allow asylum seekers to go to 46 central camps across the country instead of hundreds of hostels and ad-hoc refugee centres now being used. German officials will judge asylum cases at the camps instead of requiring refugees to journey for a hearing to the Bavarian city of Nuremberg, home of the Federal Agency for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees (BAfF).

Troops end Ivory Coast protest

ABIDJAN (R) — Mutinous troops in Ivory Coast ended their three-night occupation of a presidential palace Wednesday after President Felix Houphouet-Boigny agreed to examine complaints over pay and conditions. "It's all over," an army captain told Reuters outside the palace compound in central Abidjan. "The soldiers who are supposed to be on duty are inside and the rest have gone back to barracks." About 45 members of the elite Republican Guard had occupied the palace since Sunday night, demanding payment of promised bonuses and an improvement in their Spartan living conditions. Mr. Houphouet-Boigny, 87, was guarded at his suburban mansion by paramilitary gendarmes. He does not live at the official palace, which is used for routine work and ceremonial occasions.

Ruling party wins Jamaica election

KINGSTON (R) — Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson won a landslide victory in a general election marred by violence Tuesday and asked his country to join him in a prayer for unity. Although a final tally was not due until later Wednesday, election results showed the People's National Party (PNP) winning at least 45 seats in the 60-member parliament. Some forecasters said Mr. Patterson's PNP could wind up claiming 53 seats. The Jamaica Labour Party was guaranteed five seats but looked likely to pick up more, according to projections on state television. "I ask that before we go to bed tonight we say a prayer for peace, a prayer for unity, a prayer for the healing of the nation," Mr. Patterson said in his acceptance speech. A 30-year-old woman was stabbed to death during the voting, and at least eight people including a police officer suffered serious gunshot or stab wounds in the capital.

Scalfaro seeks caretakers for dying regime

ROME (R) — President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro searched Wednesday for people to form the last government of a regime torn apart by corruption scandals to pilot Italy to early general elections and a new constitution.

Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, heading what is to effect a caretaker government, was forced to cancel a cabinet meeting Wednesday after Finance Minister Franco Reviglio resigned over a corruption probe by Milan magistrates.

Wednesday's meeting was meant to put together a 13-billion lire (\$8 billion) emergency budget to plug the latest hole in public finances and contain Europe's largest deficit.

Mr. Amato's ministers of have quit in as many weeks because of the corruption scandals sweeping Italy. The premier Wednesday took over the Finance Ministry himself, rather than appoint a new member to a government whose days are numbered.

Mr. Amato's apparent deadline is an April 18 referendum on changing the voting system. This should clear the way for general elections, but these can only be called once the existing parliament has worked out electoral reform.

Mr. Amato placed his job at Mr. Scalfaro's disposal Tuesday. An aide to Mr. Amato said the president was searching for a new parliamentary majority.

Mr. Amato's last two appearances in parliament have provoked uproar and his razor-thin majority, further eroded by three defections Monday, has to the last few weeks let him down on key items of legislation.

"Amato resigned without resigning," said the left-wing daily *L'Unità* Wednesday.

Li Peng: U.K. has shut door on talks

PEKING (R) — Britain has shut the door on negotiations with China over Hong Kong and must take the initiative to get them started, Prime Minister Li Peng said.

"It's up to the one who tied the knot to untie it," Mr. Li told a news conference. "The ball is now in Britain's court."

Mr. Li said China was ready for talks to settle a row sparked by Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's plans for greater democracy in the British colony before its 1997 handover to China.

But he repeated the Chinese position that they must be government-to-government and based on existing Sino-British agreements.

Diplomatic contacts in Peking aimed at getting talks off the ground founded over British insistence that Hong Kong be represented as a full negotiating partner. Peking has accused Britain of renegotiating agreements on the 1997 handover by planning to increase democracy.

Earlier Wednesday, China's parliament endorsed the establishment of a working group of prepare for Hong Kong's 1997

handover, move analysts said could undermine the authority of the Hong Kong government.

Mr. Li sought to calm fears in Hong Kong that the group could develop into a rival power base.

The only purpose of the preparatory committee is to ensure the smooth transition and ensure the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong," he said.

The National People's Congress, in its final meeting of this year's session, gave the go-ahead for the new group by a vote of 2,828 in favour to 21 against, with 22 abstentions and 11 members not voting, according to NPC officials.

The bill gives the parliament's Standing Committee the power to set up a preliminary working group to lay the groundwork for a preparatory committee for the post-1997 Hong Kong special administrative region.

"I'm concerned about the situation in Hong Kong. I support the reforms the government has put forward and hope they can survive 1997," Mr. Christopher said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, speaking to a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Tuesday, said he supported Mr. Patten's plans to expand democracy in the colony before its 1997 handover to China.

"I think that China would be well advised to take into account the great strides that Hong Kong has made and, indeed, the great value that Hong Kong has provided to China as a window on the world."

In a separate development, China's parliament Wednesday passed its basic law for Macau, a mini-constitution which will govern the Portuguese-run enclave after it reverts to Chinese rule in 1999.

Angola government denies Cuito taken

LUANDA (R) — Angolan government claims to have captured the central city of Cuito after a two-month siege.

"Cuito remains under the control of government forces," Defense Ministry spokesman Jose Manuel "Jota" said.

But there had been fierce clashes on the outskirts of Cuito, a city of 280,000 people, on Sunday and Monday, he said.

The radio station of the rebel movement UNITA said Monday night UNITA forces had captured the last government stronghold in Cuito, the capital of Bié province, and were in full control of the city.

UNITA Radio acknowledged Wednesday there were still clashes in Cuito, but said government forces no longer controlled the city.

Mr. Jota said the army had killed 29 UNITA troops and seized weapons including anti-tank missiles during the last two days of fighting.

The government and UNITA radio also reported continued fighting around the besieged city of Menongue, on the southeastern fringes of the central highlands where UNITA has established its main power base.

UNITA has been shellng Menongue Airport for several weeks to try to prevent government planes from resupplying the city of more than 80,000 people.

Angola relapsed into civil war three months ago following the breakdown of a 1991 peace agreement between UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola).

Meanwhile, leaders of seven southern African frontline states meet in Zimbabwe Friday to discuss ways of securing peace in war-ravaged Angola, official sources said Wednesday.

"There are a number of issues on the agenda but the war in Angola is top of the list," a source told Reuters.

"We are agreed as a region that we have an obligation, both as neighbours and as Africans, in helping to find a lasting solution to the current bloodshed in that country (Angola)," he added.

UNITA has been shellng Menongue Airport for several weeks to try to prevent government planes from resupplying the city of more than 80,000 people.